

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 596.—VOL. IX.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1866.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

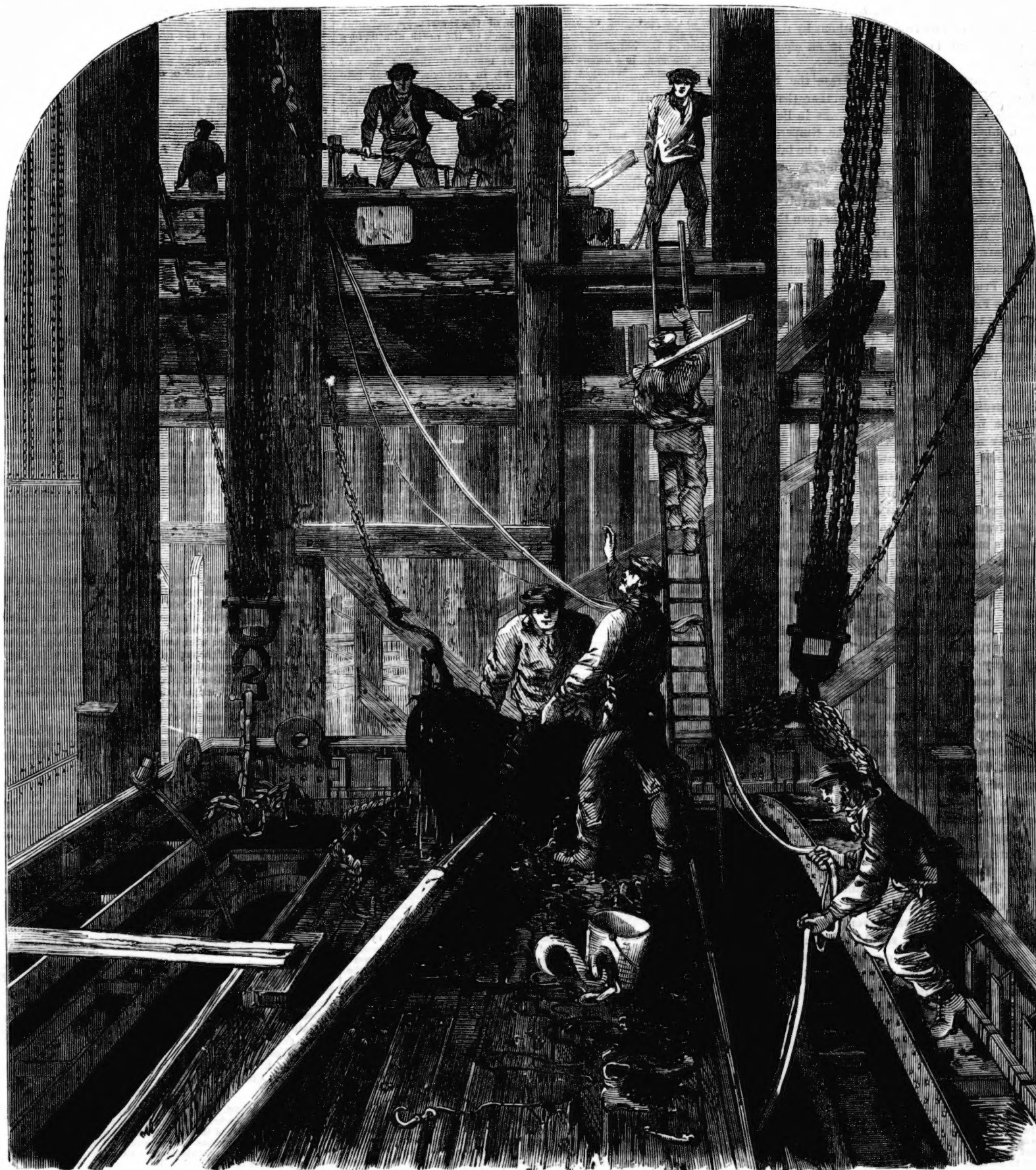
THE FRENCH FRONTIER.

THE French are an eminently logical people, and the French Emperor prides himself on being a practical logician and a believer in what he calls "the inexorable logic of facts"—an absurd but very successful phrase which he himself invented. It was, we believe, "the inexorable logic of facts," coupled with universal suffrage and "the right of every nation (or fragment of a nation) to dispose of its fate," which gave Nice and Savoy to France; at all events, it is in virtue of "the inexorable logic of facts" that France, having once got pos-

session of the Italian provinces, means to keep them. The "inexorable logic of facts" would also have given France some additional territory in the region of the Rhine if Prussia had shown herself as willing as some persons supposed her to be to grant it. But in the case of territory not already ceded the phrase in question does not apply. Provinces or districts not actually acquired, nor even promised by formal treaty, must be claimed on some other principle; and to justify his pretensions on the Rhine the French Emperor, backed, it is true, by nearly all the newspaper-writers, and therefore, we

suppose, by all the newspaper-readers, of his country, puts forward the "doctrine" that no great Power can extend its frontiers without by that fact giving all the other great Powers a right to an equivalent aggrandisement.

The principle, or "doctrine," as the French journalists prefer to call it, could not be generally applied without keeping Europe in a perpetual state of war or preparation for war. According to the said doctrine, the fact of Savoy and Nice having been given to France would have justified England, Prussia, and Russia, as "great Powers," in demanding an



THE WORKS AT BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE: "DREDGING" A CAISSON.

"equivalent aggrandisement;" though, as everyone knows, no such demand was made. Austria could not, practically, have asked for much; but, theoretically, we do not see why she also, and above all, should not have asked for compensation after losing such an important province as Lombardy. Indeed, the impossibility of such demands being enforced, except by Powers willing and able to support them by the sword, proves how much they are worth. The "doctrine" about which French politicians are now making so much fuss amounts either to this, "that a Power wishing to extend its frontiers has a right to do so whenever its neighbours will permit it;" or to this, "that a Power wishing to extend its frontiers has a right to do so at a favourable opportunity, whether its neighbours will permit it or not." The former amounts to nothing, whereas the latter is simply a profession of the principles of brigandage; and brigandage is brigandage all the same whether you call it by its right name or describe it as "the application of the doctrine that every man who sees another man in the possession of wealth has a right to transfer a portion of it to his own pockets." This is a "doctrine" that has been acted upon from time immemorial; and the pretended right of a strong Power to compensate itself for the territorial gain of one neighbour by inflicting a territorial loss upon another is equally ancient and equally respectable.

It has been suggested that the new French "doctrine," truly interpreted, means, not that an increase in the territorial extension of a great Power gives all the other great Powers a right to a similar extension, but that it gives France alone that right; and that is, no doubt, what it amounts to. The French are fond of formulas, and they have deliberately invented formulas for stealing. What they have unjustly gained, the "inexorable logic of facts" makes them determined to keep. What they have not yet acquired, but are eagerly coveting, is proved to be theirs by the doctrine that "no great Power can extend its frontiers without by that fact giving all the other great Powers a right to an equivalent aggrandisement."

By repeating this last rather lengthy phrase the French have, no doubt, ended by persuading one another that they have really some claim to the districts and towns in Belgium, in Prussia, and in Rhenish Bavaria which the Emperor has formally demanded, and which, as we learn from the telegram on the subject published on Thursday morning, Prussia has declared her inability to cede. The telegram in question is somewhat unintelligible, and the whole affair is involved in a certain mystery. How, for instance, does it happen that the Emperor, wishing for a rectification of the French frontier, should have applied to Prussia alone on the subject? Prussia could not give France the important fortress of Landau, though Prussia might, of course, give her consent to its being taken by France from Bavaria. All Prussia could give to France, of the territory now claimed by her, would be the district around Sarrelouis; and even this she, very naturally and very properly, refuses. The Austrian Emperor destroyed the last vestige of his influence in Germany when he appealed to the Emperor Napoleon to act as mediator in a contest between himself and another German Sovereign; and the King of Prussia would weaken his prestige immensely, and, perhaps, render more difficult than ever the task of forming Germany into one great State, were he now, in the moment of victory, to give up a portion of German territory to this same mediator and would-be arbitrator.

The Emperor Napoleon is known as a man of fixed ideas; and, having once advanced his claim to have certain German and Belgian districts made over to France, we may be sure that he will press this claim at every possible opportunity. It seems very strange that, in answer to the Prussian refusal, he could have contented himself with explaining that "it was in order to satisfy public opinion in France that he had expressed that wish"—i.e., for the rectification of the French frontier—"to the Prussian Government." The Emperor never set any very high value on "public opinion in France;" nor can it be a power worth taking much trouble to conciliate if it is only necessary for the Sovereign to speak in its name without caring what answer his words may obtain. We are afraid, for our part, that the Rhine question is not yet by any means at an end, even for the present. The Emperor is too much a diplomatist, too much a man of the world, and, above all, knows the French people too well, to make an important demand without having some other demand to fall back upon in case of the first one being met by a refusal. If Prussia will not give up Sarrelouis, the Emperor may still be able to persuade Bavaria, Prussia's enemy, to surrender Landau. The position of Landau, the only place of real importance of the several demanded by France, is rather peculiar. It was given to Bavaria in 1815, on condition that the fortress should be garrisoned by Federal troops. In point of law, as in point of fact, Landau is at this moment a Bavarian town and a Federal fortress; and it is to be feared that France, baffled on the side of Prussia, may next turn to Bavaria and to what remains of the German Confederation. Even then Prussia would not be likely to consent to Landau passing out of German into French hands; but France, if she is really desirous of going to war with Prussia, would at least have a good pretext and an advantageous opportunity for doing so.

HOW TO MAKE AN OMELETTE.—A young man was arrested in the Rue de la Ferronnerie, Paris, a few days since, for an extraordinary freak while under the influence of drink. In passing before a dealer's shop he suddenly jumped into a basket at the door containing from 200 to 300 eggs; and, after smashing them to his heart's content, he called out, "That is the way I make an omelette; now bring me a frying-pan!" The owner, however, called a *sergent-de-ville*, who took the man away to the police station.

THE WORKS AT BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.

It is easy to see that the contractors for the new bridge at Blackfriars intend using every moment of time possible, night and day, in the water and out of the water, wrenching, pulling, hoisting, carrying—pausing only in some parts of the works for the tide. Before completing the demolition of the old bridge they had already commenced preparations for the erection of the new one. The "travellers" on one side of the river were tugging at the stones of the old piers, while those on the other were employed in carrying the component parts of those huge caissons which have since been fitted together and sunk in their respective positions. It is curious to notice, in the very midst of all kinds of modern improvements to save labour, the old "spoon and bag" still being used. The caissons are sunk to the bed of the river, when a diver goes down, and with the spoon the interior is dredged until the clay is reached. The great weight of the caisson then causes it to rest so firmly as to become water-tight. It is then pumped dry, and quite ready to receive the masons. In the course of dredging the spoon and bag bring many long hidden things to the surface—old iron bars, tea-pots, &c., but principally bones—jaw-bones, thigh-bones, chop-bones, ribs; heaps of bones. Judging from the quantity brought up from a single caisson, the river must be "paved" with them.

We have from time to time followed the course of those immense operations which are going on upon the river, both with relation to the Thames Embankment and the new bridge at Blackfriars; and our Engraving this week represents the most recent work of importance in connection with the latter structure, as exhibited to several visitors from the Society of Engineers on the 3rd inst. Standing upon the uppermost beam of one of the huge trusses carrying the steam-travellers, and casting the eye below and up and down the banks of the river, one is forcibly reminded that, to whatever extent timber is superseded by iron in permanent constructions, it is well-nigh omnipotent in all those intended for temporary purposes. In addition to the forest of balks, wooden stays, ties, upright and longitudinal beams presented to the view underneath, there is the temporary timber bridge close at hand, doing duty for the future one. Further down the stream there is the scaffolding of the nearly finished Cannon-street railway-bridge. Higher up the enormous amount of timber used in the construction of the two embankments far exceeds that used at either Cannon-street or Blackfriars. The foundations for the abutments were got in in the ordinary manner; a dam was constructed inclosing the area, the bed of the river excavated to the required depth, averaging about 20 ft., a bed of cement concrete about 13 ft. in height laid in, and the solid brickwork started upon its surface. The City side abutment is up to Thames high-water mark, and that of the Surrey side to the springing of the arch, one of the skewbacks, weighing nearly eleven tons, being set. At the back of the north abutment a portion of the old Fleet sewer is visible. The foundations for the piers are sunk in a somewhat different manner to that of those of the abutments. Wrought iron caissons, in sections, are sunk into the bed of the river; upon these are erected successive lengths of caissons, until the whole forms a huge cofferdam composed of sections equal in the aggregate to the area of the pier, and 45 ft. deep from top to bottom. The caissons are sunk into the bed of the clay by the combined effects of weighting the top and excavating the clay from the inside during the process of sinking. It does not appear that there was any difficulty experienced in getting them down properly. Whenever there was any tendency evinced to heel over, a little extra weighting on the opposite side soon brought them back to the plumb. When once down, the area is dredged out to a depth varying from 18 ft. to 23 ft., cement concrete filled in, the brickwork commenced on top and carried up to about 4 ft. below Thames low-water mark. At this point the masonry starts, and is, of course, continued up to the springing of the arch. The heart of the pier is of brickwork, the archwork constituting the facing. The iron caissons are left permanently in the river up to the level of 4 ft. below Thames low-water mark. The upper lengths are removed as the work proceeds. Some idea of the weight of these caissons may be obtained from the fact that the lowest sections weigh 90 tons. Notwithstanding their enormous weight, they are lifted up entire and hoisted upon the temporary stage erected over the site where they are to be sunk.

OYSTER CULTURE.—A company has been established for the culture of oysters, on the principle of the Herne Bay and Whitstable fisheries, at the Warren, a large bank at the mouth of the estuary of the Exe, in Devonshire. Nearly 400 acres of magnificent backwater can be inclosed at comparatively small cost; and Mr. Frank Buckland and Mr. Fennell, Inspectors of Fisheries, have given it as their opinion that the conditions are most favourable for oyster-breeding. The first pile was driven, on Saturday, by the Earl of Devon, who is lord of the manor, in the presence of a distinguished company; and the works, it is expected, will be completed in about a year's time. It is proposed, also, to erect a pier for loading and unloading the vessels anchoring in the Exe Light, which pier will be connected by rail with the South Devon Railway Company. The Exe has been celebrated for its oysters since the time of the Romans.

GREAT FIRE IN ANTWERP.—A fire broke out, on Friday morning week, in the petroleum warehouse of M. Denis-Haine, in the Plaine St. Walburgue, in Antwerp. The fire commenced in the basement story, and, despite the efforts of the workmen on the premises, rapidly extended to the whole building. Upon the arrival of the Fire Brigade (*Pompier*) the most energetic attempts were made to prevent the extension of the flames, but in vain, the highly inflammable materials with which the warehouse was stored continually furnishing fresh fuel for the rapidly-spreading fire, which soon attacked an adjoining warehouse in which were stored large quantities of linen and guano, while the cellars were filled with barrels of petroleum and spirits. Attempts were made to stifle the fire in the more dangerous localities by filling up the cellars with sand, but during this operation the front of M. Haine's warehouse gave way, and extended the disaster to the Hotel de Cologne. At a quarter past one on Saturday the fire was still raging with fearful intensity in the wool and petroleum stores; but, although a cooper who was engaged in the cellars when the fire broke out was missing, no actual loss of life had been reported. The destruction of property has been immense, some estimates—probably exaggerated in the excitement of the moment—reaching £200,000.

ROYAL VISIT TO YORKSHIRE.—The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to York has been attended with festivities of more than usual brilliancy. On Friday week the Prince uncovered the Prince Consort memorial window in the Guildhall, and in the evening a ball was given in his honour. But the great feature was the illuminations, which, owing to the picturesque character of the old city, were more than usually effective. On Saturday last the Prince reviewed the volunteers at Knavesmire, under the command of the Duke of Cambridge, Sir Sydney Cotton being second in command. The force was estimated at between 20,000 and 30,000 men. The marching past occupied forty-five minutes. The divisions were then drawn up in two lines of contiguous columns, and a series of manœuvres commenced. The file and volley firing were particularly good. Several of the artillery corps brought their field-pieces on to the ground and handled them with much efficiency. Before the review had quite concluded, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales left for Studley Royal, the seat of Earl De Grey and Ripon. The manœuvres having been brought to a conclusion, the mounted officers were called to the front, and his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge addressed them to the following effect:—"He was very much gratified by the performances of the day. They had brought together in the field nearly 30,000 men, and the regularity with which the various battalions were brought forward was most satisfactory. The order and precision of the marching past were all that could be wished; and when they remembered that many of these battalions had never before been brigaded together, it must be admitted that they had acquitted themselves most creditably. There were matters of detail which might be greatly improved, and he impressed upon the commanding officers the importance of not neglecting detail. Detail was all important in matters of war. Great operations often depended upon little details, and unless they attended to the minutest the whole machinery speedily got out of order. The general manœuvres had been very creditably carried out, though some neglect in matters of detail had somewhat marred the good effect. He must, however, say that, on the whole, a more creditable military performance he had not seen. The very excellent material of which the corps were formed, the ready and handy manner in which they had been brought to their places, and the cheerfulness with which they had come together, showed the thorough interest taken in the volunteer service and reflected the highest credit upon them, and he was happy to request them to express to their respective battalions his entire satisfaction with the proceedings of the day and with the magnificent spectacle he had witnessed. The Prince of Wales had desired him to express his satisfaction with what he had seen and his regret at having to leave before the conclusion of the proceedings."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

We are glad to learn that the health of the Emperor of the French is improving. Whilst the accounts of its Imperial master are thus encouraging, however, the good city of Paris is very unhealthy, owing to the prevailing epidemic, the mortality from which is extensive.

If we may credit a telegram which Mr. Reuter sends us from Paris, the Emperor Napoleon has withdrawn his proposition for a rectification of French frontier on the side of Germany. The Prussian Ambassador, Count von Goltz, had, it seems, an interview with the Emperor, at which he informed him that the demands of France were inadmissible by Prussia. The Emperor is reported to have replied that he made the demand in accordance with public opinion in France, which he believed to be just. He admitted, however, the force of the arguments against the cession on the part of Prussia, and declared that the friendly relations between the two Powers would continue of the closest description. He is said to have added that he hoped Prussia would respect the line of the Maine.

The errand of the Empress Charlotte of Mexico to Paris has, at length, coaxed out to be an application for a monthly subsidy in the form of a loan. In the present state of the Mexican exchequer there is every prospect of the Imperial army melting into thin air, in which event the Emperor will be compelled to follow his august Consort, after a short, agitated, and not very happy reign, and an end thus be put to the project of founding a dynasty of Hapsburgs in the country of Montezuma. French finance, it is thought, is not in so flourishing a condition as to encourage the petition, so that it is on the cards that the Juarist cause will be shortly looking up once again.

PRUSSIA.

The Government had intended to announce the annexation of the conquered northern States in Parliament on Wednesday, but was prevented doing so by the influence of some illustrious personages at Court.

Prussia is rapidly settling accounts with the smaller States. Peace is all but concluded with Württemberg and Baden; and the Queen of Hanover has been advised to cut short her residence in that country. Prince Louis of Hesse is on a visit to the Crown Prince of Prussia, probably in the hope of making better terms for little Darmstadt.

The Minister of Finance has introduced into the Chamber of Deputies a Bill of Indemnity for the financial administration of the government from the commencement of the year 1862 to the present time. He also asked the House to authorise an expenditure for the current year of 154 millions. The estimates for 1867 will be made known before the close of the present year. The Finance Minister further demanded a credit of 60 million thalers. He stated that the Government was of opinion that the issue of Treasury notes would be the most expedient means for meeting the expenditure. They had abandoned all idea of negotiating a loan, but did not lose sight of the fact that fuller powers for financial purposes might be required, as by the signature of the armistice peace had not actually been concluded.

AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Minister of Finance, Count Larisch, has resigned, and been succeeded *pro tem.* by Baron Koch. A despatch received at Brussels says that there is much excitement at Vienna owing to the large number of persons who are being tried for treason, and that the Emperor has been received in the streets with cries of "Abdicat!" This news is not confirmed by direct telegrams.

The Empress of Austria has again left Pesth for Vienna. It is stated that the Hungarian Diet will be convened for October next. The Pesth papers have not been allowed to publish any communications relative to the recent negotiations between the Austrian Government and the Hungarian political leaders.

ITALY.

Austria and Italy have come to an agreement. An armistice has been signed for four weeks, and to be continued unless notice to the contrary is given. The difficulty has been the line of demarcation beyond which the Italian troops should not go. An arrangement has been made by which the Italians occupy simply Lombardo-Venetia, and do not come within certain fixed distances of the forts.

General Garibaldi has issued an address to the volunteers expressing his confidence that they will respect the conditions of the armistice and conform as hitherto to the orders of the Government. The Garibaldians have effected the retrograde movement to the line of demarcation in perfect order.

The commanders of the Austrian fortresses in Venetia are said to have received orders to dispatch to Vienna all movable war material in the places under their command before the 25th inst. Some political prisoners who had been detained in the Austrian empire have been restored to their homes. All the Italians in the Austrian police force have been discharged.

RUSSIA.

From St. Petersburg we learn that the investigation into the late attempt to assassinate the Emperor has resulted in important disclosures relative to the source and object of the plot. Several of the parties implicated in the design on the Czar's life have been arrested, and even confessed their guilt; and it is proved that the conspiracy originated with two fraternities of Socialists, having their headquarters at Moscow, in correspondence with the European Revolutionary Committee (whatever that may be), and which include in their ranks a number of Poles. An agency for the introduction of foreign Russian bank-notes has likewise been discovered; and, had the attack on the Emperor been successful, it was to have been followed by insurrection and revolution.

An Imperial ordinance has been received at Warsaw, from St. Petersburg, according to which the official correspondence with the central authorities is in future to be carried on in the Russian and not in the Polish language.

MEXICO.

Intelligence from the city of Mexico of the 27th ult., published at New York, states that an attempt at a revolution had been made in that city. The conspirators were arrested, and have been banished. Excitement is reported to prevail in Yucatan. The Liberals are said to have occupied Tampico, Monterey, and Saltillo.

THE UNITED STATES.

The American Senate, no doubt with the view of gaining the Irish votes for the Republican cause, has passed a resolution granting the use of the Government fair buildings for Fenian meetings. Stephens, in order to keep up the spirits of his followers, has issued a circular asserting that fighting will commence on Irish soil in the course of the year.

Several members of the Free State Convention at New Orleans have been arrested and indicted before the grand jury. Numerous blacks have been arrested, and arms and ammunition have been found concealed in the house of a negro. The Radicals and their opponents mutually denounce each other's policy as having led to the late riots.

The debt of the United States on the 1st inst. amounted to 2750 million dollars.

Advices from Havannah state that Spain is preparing another attack upon Chili.

GROUSE-SHOOTING.—The 12th of August falling on Sunday, grouse-shooting on the Yorkshire moors commenced on Monday. The weather during the early part of the day was discouraging, but as the morning wore on it was more auspicious. Some excellent sport was experienced, and, although there are fewer birds in some localities than in former years, some good bags were made. The late high winds have made the young grouse very wild, and consequently difficult to get at. The majority are healthy and in excellent condition.

ADDRESSES OF THE PRUSSIAN DIET.

The Conservative members of the Lower Chamber of the Prussian Diet have brought in the following draught of an address in answer to the speech from the Throne:—

"Most Gracious King,—With joyful thanks and patriotic affection we have hailed your Majesty's return among us—the return of a king crowned with victory from a career of triumph such as even the most glorious leaves of Prussian history can scarcely parallel. The more deeply we were convinced, with your Majesty, that this victorious conflict was a fight for existence, for life and death, for the historical positions and the most precious possession of our Fatherland, the more sincerely do we bow down with our King in reverence before God, whose mercy has crowned our banners with victory, and has again proved by famous deeds that the mission of Prussia in Germany is a self-chosen task, but an historical position, from which our people neither can nor dare withdraw. Now, when we have equally convinced friend and enemy of the excellence of our army organisation, we unanimously praise the wise foresight with which your Majesty, by force of your Royal office, made the people of Prussia capable of bearing arms for so mighty a development of strength. United and strong in presence of the enemy, the people of Prussia, with their King at their head, have shown themselves in truth a nation in arms. Although we have not purchased victory without heavy sacrifices, and at the cost of much precious blood, the sanguinary seed shall not have been scattered in vain. The farsighted prudence and energy which have hitherto guided the fortunes of Prussia will, we firmly trust, also know how to reap and gather the fruits of peace."

Most Gracious King and Lord,—The palm of victory the Prussian and German people hope for must not and shall not be taken from us. In the united co-operation of the Government and the representatives, and the well-known popular strength of Prussia and Germany, your Majesty will find the strength to combat all domestic and foreign foes. We have heard your Majesty's statement as to the condition of our finances with lively satisfaction. The conscientious and economical financial administration of our country has always formed an important element of the strength and readiness of Prussia. We shall therefore most willingly grant the means required for the completion of the work so gloriously begun. Domestic dissension must be dumb in presence of the great historical task Providence has placed before us, and posterity will condemn everyone who endeavours to bring forward ancient party quarrels into the new epoch of Europe. We tender to your Majesty the respectful thanks of the country for having taken the first step to place the long struggle as to the constitutional budget right of the representatives in its real legal shape upon the ground of facts, divested of all theoretical party dissension, and thereby facilitating the reconciliation of all differences which in constitutional life can only be effected by compromise. We, too, trust that the conflict will now be the more securely ended for all time, as not only is its immediate cause for ever removed, but the long-wished-for completion of the Prussian army organisation is now found in the desired new formation of the German Fatherland. We shall at once proceed with conscientious zeal to consider the measures laid before us. May God bless your Majesty, and crown with success the labours of peace!

The old Liberal party, headed by Baron von Vincke and Count Schwerin, proposed the following draught:—

Your Majesty has assembled us around your illustrious throne at a great moment of historical importance. Our people humbly praise the grace of God which protected a life so dear to us, and gave rapid and brilliant victory over numerous and valiant enemies to our heroic army, under the guidance of its King. When battle for the independence of the Fatherland was no longer to be avoided, your Majesty boldly and bravely accepted it. The Prussian people in arms, prepared in good time for a stronger development of force by your Majesty's wise foresight, have again fettered victory to the banners of the Great Elector and Frederick the Great, and, animated by the spirit of the War of Independence, have renewed its famous deeds. Many brave men sleep in a foreign soil; the country thinks with deep sorrow upon its fallen heroes. Their blood must not have flowed in vain. Prussia at the head of Germany, so far as in any way possible united, is a long-desired prize for the great and grievous sacrifices that have been wrought. We regard it as our most important task to co-operate with all our strength that the fruits of our victories may not be lost, and we look forward with eagerness to the bills for the incorporation of the German countries to be united to Prussia, and for the assembly of a popular representation of the Federal States. The country learns the favourable state of the finances with great satisfaction. Now that your Majesty has acknowledged that the budget only obtains its legal basis through the law ordained by Art. 99 of the Constitution, to be yearly agreed upon between the Government and both Houses of the Diet, we shall willingly receive the bill of indemnity for the past, in view of the great results achieved, and shall the more readily grant the funds requisite for the successful termination of the war, and payment for the supplies in kind.

Most Gracious King and Lord,—In all the great days of our Prussian history the spirit and strength of the people have been associated in sacrifice and devotion with those of their Sovereigns. So shall it be in future with us. We stand by your Majesty as our fathers to your ancestors. God grant it! And who shall then be against us?

THE AMERICAN NAVY.

A VISIT to the navy-yards at Washington and New York will afford a convincing proof of the determination of the Americans to profit by every lesson which they learnt during their recent war. During the last three years of that great struggle the ingenuity of the people was turned solely to the improvement of warlike appliances, and consequently the lists in the Patent Office include comparatively few inventions intended for manufacturing or domestic purposes. All the skill of a sharp-witted race was bent upon a particular subject, and the number and variety of new arms or plans for constructing iron ships, which were laid before the Government are past calculation. The necessities of the weaker side led to the first and greatest invention of the war—the ironclad. The Merrimac was cut down and covered with old railway iron, at the suggestion of a Confederate naval officer, and, although the regular navy will not concede that the idea originated with the "rebels," yet there can be no doubt that when the Merrimac began its terrible work the North had no vessel fit to match her; but they soon produced an imitation of her which was far better than the original. From that time to the present the improvement of ironclads has been the constant aim of the Navy Department. It has tried every suggestion that seems to have a reasonable prospect of success, and it is the simple truth to affirm that every monitor which is launched is stronger and more complete in all its details than the one which preceded it. With our present knowledge, at least, it is difficult to point out any part of these formidable vessels into which an improvement can be introduced.

The labours of the Navy Department have doubtless been greatly facilitated by the fact that the administration has not been subject to constant and sudden changes, such as take place in our Board of Admiralty with every change of Ministry. One set of men, understanding their business thoroughly, and with a perfect recollection of all that has been done in the department, have had the American navy under their control for years past. There has, therefore, been steady and continuous work; inventions have not been dropped because the first officer has been removed, nor has any inventor suffered on account of the reluctance of a new staff of officials to accept the responsibilities and engagements of the old. The officer who has been sent to Europe in charge of the Miantonomah has been Assistant-Secretary to the American navy throughout the war, and the chief bureaus remain as they were in 1861. Most of the heads of these bureaus received their appointments in reward for some improvements which they had discovered. The department is not embarrassed by party ties, nor have its chiefs to study family interests, and thus it is left free to do its work in its own way; and, as there is no representative of the Government in Congress, there is not even the check of "questions" or notices of motion upon the action of Mr. Welles and his colleagues. All that the people ask for is that their fleet shall be the most powerful in the world. The Navy Department promises to give them that; and if there is any question about its having accomplished its purpose to-day, there will be none a few years hence, if they advance as swiftly, and we and other European nations move as slowly, as at the present moment.

The whole principle of rifled ordnance, as is well known, is being abandoned by the Americans. Their argument is that they care nothing for high velocity, so long as they can throw the heaviest weight of metal possible from a vessel which can go close to the object of attack and be itself almost impregnable to attack. Such a vessel they believe they possess in the Monitor. They do not want high velocity. Their plan is to get to close quarters with the enemy and destroy him by superior weight of metal. The smoothbore invented by Rear-Admiral Dahlgren and improved by Rodman is indisputably the most efficient application of this particular principle. The Americans maintain that their cast iron is very superior to ours; and it is certain that, although every Dahlgren gun has

been very severely tested before being sent from the yard, very few indeed have burst. It is the 15-inch gun of this kind with which the latest monitors are armed; but it is soon to be superseded by a 20 inch, which the naval officers at Washington believe will be the most serviceable and destructive gun known to the world.

A better gun than the Dahlgren may still be found, but an engine of war more perfect than the vessels intended to carry them it is hard to conceive. The Monitors were at first built with a single turret, but almost all that are laid down now have two turrets, and carry four guns instead of two. The Tonawandah, which is now lying off the navy yard at Washington, is one of the latest turned out, and it is in all respects like the Miantonomah, at present on a visit to Europe. The turrets are of iron, 11 in. thick, and the guns inside, by a clever piece of mechanism, can be raised or depressed easily by a slight movement of the hand. The turret itself can be lowered in a few minutes, and a plate of iron slid over the porthole, so that there is no weak point left for the enemy to make a mark of. Down below the vessel seems to be all machinery; but she has room for her crew of 160 men, all told; and, although the landsman may not covet the quarters where this crew are stowed, as a matter of fact, American sailors prefer a monitor to any other description of vessel. This may, perhaps, be owing to the fact that they have less work to do in her; for there is no rigging to look after, and the sea washes the deck of the monitor when she is out on a voyage; so that all deck labour is taken off the hands of the crew. Moreover, after the visitor to the monitor has spent half an hour in her, he will have a better opinion of the quarters assigned to the men. There is room to stand upright in them and they are safe against shot; for they are below the water-line, and seven inches of oak and five inches of iron are between them and the water. Any danger must come from shells above or torpedoes below; and, in action, batted down, the crew of a monitor must die together if any mischance occurred. But it would be remarkably good practice which enabled the enemy to pitch a shell on to the flush deck of a monitor which only stands three feet out of water, and would prove an uncertain mark at the distance of half a mile. As to the torpedo, some of our own naval officers have concurred with the Americans in thinking that monitors as they are now being built have little or nothing to fear from these instruments, and it is, of course, in harbours only where they could encounter them. The officers' quarters are as comfortable as any true sailor can desire, and they are now being fitted up with some attention to elegance and finish. There are bath-rooms and pantries, and the cabins are in every respect more roomy than those in an ordinary passenger-steamer. The draught of a monitor of the size of the Tonawandah is only 13 ft. or 14 ft., her tonnage being 1564. She carries four engines of about 1400-horse power, and is fitted with apparatus for pumping down the air from the turrets and for condensing steam similar to that which the Miantonomah carries, and which was recently described in these columns. The Tonawandah is about 300 ft. in length and 57 ft. beam. Most of the new vessels of her class are being built of exactly the same dimensions.

A ram has long been under construction in New York which most people now look upon as an eccentric rather than a useful development of the ironclad theory. It is called the Dunderberg, and is intended to carry a heavy armament, broadside and turret, besides the formidable ram at the bows. This ram may be detached without injury to the vessel; but the Dunderberg is too unwieldy to please naval men. Her tonnage is 5090, and her plating thicker than that of the monitors. It must be this vessel which Sir John Pakington alluded to in the House of Commons as intended to combine "three distinct means of attack—the broadside, the turret, and the ram bow." There is no other of the class in any of the navy yards.

It is not, however, to the construction of ironclads that the naval authorities in the United States are confining themselves. They are building twenty "cruisers," intended to do the work which made the Alabama and the Shenandoah famous, only to do it much more effectually. They are the most graceful and beautiful vessels in appearance that were ever seen, and our own naval officers who have been to the New York yard are the first to declare that they are far superior to any vessels of the same kind in the British fleet. Their bows are as symmetrical as the bows of a yacht; they are built to run seventeen knots an hour, and may be depended upon for thirteen or fourteen. They carry from eighteen to twenty guns, and, without a doubt, four or five of them could commit dreadful havoc upon the commerce of any nation. They have four smoke stacks, or funnels, and all their engines are of the most complete and perfect construction ever known. The injuries which the Alabama inflicted upon commerce taught the Americans the wisdom of furnishing themselves with the means of retaliation. They began these cruisers during the war, and have not desisted from building them because the war is over. They will finish the whole number, to be in readiness for service at any future time. The Admiralty has had its attention directed to these cruisers on several occasions, but it is very doubtful whether we have at present any vessels in the English fleet which possess their powerful armaments and great speed. Three or four of them are completed, and have been tried with complete success.

Besides gun-casting and shipbuilding in the American navy-yards, there is always some new torpedo or shell under trial. There is an expanding torpedo which throws out huge arms when it is fired; and shells which would destroy a monitor, if any shell could. The authorities are also proud of a little machine for making percussion-caps at the rate of 25,000 a day, invented by a workman in the yard. Economy and efficiency are the two ends sought for in everything by Mr. Welles and his subordinates; and, if they sometimes fail, they have undeniably given the United States a naval force capable of holding its own against any that the European Powers could bring against it. When the vessels now under construction are completed, the American fleet will include seventy-five monitors, 401 screw or paddle steamers, and 112 sailing-vessels—carrying in all 4443 guns. In January, 1861, sixty-eight vessels made up the whole American fleet. In the difference between the fleet in 1861 and 1886 is to be found the best illustration that could be given of the vigour and energy of the American Navy Department.—Times.

THE RESTORATION OF SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.—The committee for conducting the restoration of Salisbury Cathedral met on Saturday last, under the presidency of the Bishop of the diocese; and it was announced that the works comprised in the first contract, and which had been in progress for the last two years, had now been completed. A second contract has been entered into for the restoration of the west front of the cathedral, and it is calculated that the new portion of the work will be completed by June, 1887. The work of strengthening the lantern-walls of the tower—probably the most important of all—has been completed to the entire satisfaction of the architect, Mr. Gilbert Scott, as well as of Mr. Shields. If the funds found to be at the disposal of the committee will warrant such a step, it is next proposed to undertake the warming of the cathedral. The subscriptions originally promised amounted to £15,341 10s. 5d., and of this sum no less than £11,105 has already been received.

FRENCH POLITENESS.—An extraordinary escape from prison, followed, however, by recapture, has just taken place at Tarascon (Bouches-du-Rhône). A man named Lapallu had been arrested for robbery, although only recently liberated after undergoing a sentence of twelve years' hard labour, and had been confined in the tower of the old castle of the town. Five other prisoners slept in the same room, and, all having agreed to attempt to get away, they contrived to remove a bar from the window, and then tied together the sheets of all the beds torn into strips. Lapallu was the first to descend by this impromptu rope, but it presently gave way, and he fell from a height of about 50 ft. into a dry moat. The noise attracted the attention of the gaolers, and the remaining prisoners were put into irons; but Lapallu had got clear off, leaving marks of blood where he had fallen. Some days later, M. Devismes, Procureur-Imperial of Tarascon, was crossing the bridge between that town and Beaucourt, when he met a man whose head was bound up with linen, and who appeared to walk with difficulty. M. Devismes at once recognised Lapallu, but, being with his wife, he simply asked the man whether he was in want of assistance, and offered to get him into the hospital. Lapallu, who also knew the Procureur-Imperial by sight, declined with thanks and immediately made off in an opposite direction. M. Devismes at once gave notice to the gendarmes, and Lapallu, being followed, was overtaken at a fountain where he had stopped to drink, and was recaptured. After his return to prison he wrote to the Procureur-Imperial to compliment him on the presence of mind he had shown when they met on the bridge; and the latter, not to be outdone in politeness, is said to have since sent to the prisoner a few bottles of good wine, of which Lapallu was greatly in need to recover his strength.

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY AT PORTSMOUTH.

THE inspection of this dockyard, with its office accounts, its basins, docks, ships, steam factory, smitheries, foundries, workshops, and stores of all kinds, and the extension ground and works for the new dockyard, occupied Sir John Pakington on Wednesday, with his colleagues, exactly six hours in taking stock of the whole. Thus, two hours were spent in the office of the Admiral-Superintendent; two hours in a scramble over the dockyard with all its docks, ships, basins, stores, and workshops; and two hours over the ground set out for the extension of the yard. To this, however, must be added two hours in the after part of the day, when the Board were engaged in receiving petitions or deputations from people representing various bodies of employes in the yard, all of which, according to custom, were graciously received. All annual inspections by the Admiralty of the national dockyards are consummate farces, and necessarily so by reason of the shortness of the time at disposal for the purpose, and from the fact that these annual inspections are officially announced beforehand from Whitehall, and therefore fully provided for by the dockyard officials, and in this latter mode of conduct a meritorious set of officers (so far as their services go) are but following in the beaten track of an old custom. That announced annual visits of Boards of Admiralty are a farce, or worse than a farce, if even only judged by the amount of actual work accomplished by their Lordships on such occasions, it is only necessary to briefly analyse the six hours spent by their Lordships at Portsmouth to prove the truth of the assertion. The two hours spent in the Admiral-Superintendent's office may be supposed to have been upon investigation of accounts, or it may have been of plans of the new works, or upon gossip. We will take the first theory as the most probable, and then ask what enlightenment the Admiralty could possibly have received on so large a subject in so short a time. Exclusive of officers of the yard, there are upwards of 3000 hands employed, who receive annually upwards of £201,000 as wages. If the Board, then, wished to know where these men were employed and the exact nature of the work they were then engaged upon, how could they possibly satisfy themselves on the subject in two short hours in the Admiral-Superintendent's office, with so many other subjects at the same time before them? Again, let us only imagine an official inspection of a great dockyard like Portsmouth being got through in two hours! The whole thing is so absurd that one almost shares in the absurdity to write or speak of it. It is necessary, however, that we separate any consideration of the Controller of the Navy from the general Board in speaking as we do of "annual inspections." The Board collectively only make "confusion worse confounded" by their annual visits. To them it is a holiday, and is treated as such. It is a grand processional triumph of the Lords of the Admiralty, and no one would cavil at the custom if only things were called by their right names. Controllers of the Navy have always found themselves compelled at these annual visits of the Board to separate themselves from their colleagues and look after their ships building or repairing at the time. Sir Baldwin Walker always acted in this manner, and, to a certain degree, therefore, independently of the movements of the Board. Rear-Admiral Spencer Robinson is equally alert to his duties. While their Controller is at work, in fact, it has been, long times past, and it is now to this day, to the Board their grand annual holiday.

On Wednesday morning the Board, unaccompanied by the Controller, disembarked from their yachts shortly before noon in their barge, and crossed over the harbour to the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard, which their Lordships "inspected" in the usual cursory manner. From the Clarence-yard carriages conveyed the Board to the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar, the slipway and yard at Haslar—once the home of the rotten Crimean gun-boats, but now waiting utilisation—and the headquarters of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, at Forton. The whole was again a "scramble" for the Board, but it was got through nearly within the limited time; after which the Board returned on board the Osborne to luncheon.

The parade of the Royal Marine Artillery was ordered on the glacis of Fort Cumberland, about four miles east of Portsmouth, for the inspection of the Admiralty, at 3 p.m., and before that time the corps was drawn up, deployed in two battalions in line, with a half battery of 12-pounder Armstrong guns on each flank, under the command of Colonel Alexander, C.B.

It was upwards of forty minutes after the appointed time before their Lordships arrived, the Controller, who was engaged on board the Bellerophon iron frigate, excepted; and, on drawing up in front of the line, they were received with a general salute, the band of the corps playing the National Anthem. Their Lordships immediately alighted, and walked rapidly along the line of troops and past the demi-batteries on the flanks. A very few minutes satisfied their Lordships that no men could possibly look better than the Royal Marine Artillery of the British Navy; and Sir John Pakington led the way back to the saluting-point, where their Lordships took up their position to view the "march past," in company with Colonel Langley, Adjutant-General of the Royal Marine forces; Colonel Commandant Alexander, C.B., Royal Marine Artillery; and a number of officers in blue and scarlet and gold uniforms, among which the black morning coats of "my Lords" looked rather out of place. The march past was performed with all that steadiness and precision for which the Royal Marine Artillery have become famous, as in all their other professional attainments. After this ceremonial part of the proceedings had been brought to a close, the men piled arms and marched off to their several batteries to take part in the practice ordered from the various ordnance in the fort and on the glacis and sea beach in front.

While the men were marching to their batteries their Lordships visited the drill batteries inside the fort, the model-room, and infirmary. This was all gone through with that wonderful celerity which distinguishes all Boards of Admiralty on similar occasions; and at 3:15 p.m. the appearance of their Lordships on the south-west bastion of the fort was the signal for firing, which commenced simultaneously from the heavy ordnance in the fort, from the field batteries, the rocket-battery, and the sand mortar and sea-service 13 inch mortar. The effect was very grand. The shells burst with beautiful precision at 1800 and 2000 yards seawards. It was all over, however, very quickly. A great deal of noise and smoke had been evolved in a small amount of time, and in these two particulars only the practice of the Royal Marine Artillery resembled Admiralty doings in general.

The ship's battery was afterwards visited, where some excellent drill with the naval rifled guns was displayed, and broadside practice made at canvas targets on the sandbank. This was no sooner ended than their Lordships' carriages were called for, and the Board immediately left on its return to Portsmouth, driving past or through the new Royal Marine Artillery barracks at Eastney, but giving no time for an inspection of any part.

Rear-Admiral R. S. Robinson, Controller of the Navy, on the Board leaving the Osborne in the morning, landed at the King's stairs of the dockyard, and paid a visit to the iron frigate Bellerophon, Captain E. Tatham, then preparing to leave the harbour for Spithead preparatory to a trial of her speed over the measured mile in Stokes Bay. Admiral Robinson had thus, fortunately, an opportunity of seeing personally how far this ship's decks have been damaged, and the vessel altogether knocked about by heaving up her decks with rough ballast to bring her deep enough in the water for a trial of speed which at this moment can only be worthless in its results. After leaving the Bellerophon, the Controller proceeded on board the Thunderer, target-ship, in Porchester Lake, where he inspected the armour-plates from John Brown and Co's and other firms, which have lately been tested from the guns on board, rifled and smooth-bore, with iron and steel shot, and also the results produced by a hollow shot of compressed steel on one of Brown's 8-inch plates from a Whitworth 7-inch rifled gun. The Controller afterwards returned to the dockyard.

THE EMPEROR OF MEXICO has conferred the cross of commander of the Order of Guadalupe on M. Anatole Duruy, Chef du Cabinet to the Minister of Public Instruction and Secretary of the Scientific Commission of Mexico.

THE LATE WAR IN EUROPE.

There is now little doubt of the conclusion of peace, however reluctantly those who drew the sword may have prepared to sheathe it—a reluctance with which all brave men will sympathise, especially when they think of those leaders of the Italian cause whose enthusiasm was so genuine that the arrest of the blow which they hoped to deal to Austria is in itself a bitter disappointment. The aspect of some of the Italian towns where the troops were drawn together for the final struggle is strangely changed even in the short time since the sketches were made from which our present illustrations are taken. Active events have become but reminiscences; only a few days ago, Cremona was the centre of the bustle and activity of war, and the trumpets sounded constantly in its streets, where men were gathering in orderly array to join the army which here concentrated round the King and waited for action. The quaint old Italian town, whose quiet streets had little of the picturesque about them, and which is more celebrated, perhaps, for its family of great fiddle-makers than for aught else, was all alive and bright with uniforms and arms, and the strains of martial music.

Very different was the scene in Venice on that morning lately when the people, who were passing near the old prison of Gradisca, held their breaths and suppressed emotion at seeing two or three of the black and coffin-like gondolas glide past, each of their tent-like deck-houses closely shut and guarded by an Austrian sentry. These funeral-boats, sad, silent, and mysterious, bore the political prisoners from Gradisca, to what was perhaps deemed the greater security of San Severo.

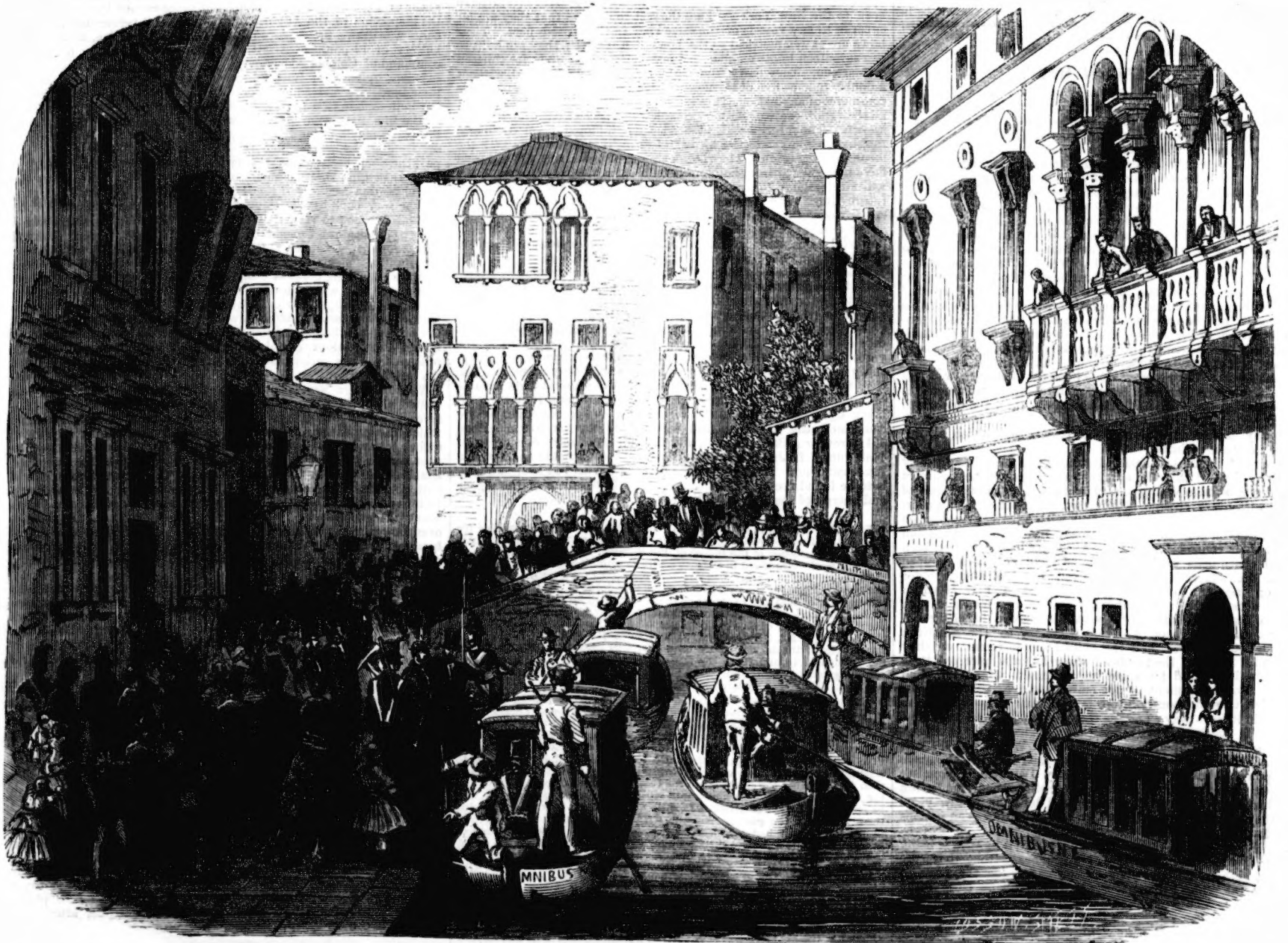
Two of our Engravings represent episodes of the struggles which preceded the final triumph of the Prussians at Königgrätz, one of them being the sudden movement of that Bavarian contingent which made such haste to evacuate Frankfort, and whose presence in that free city has proved to be such a costly



ITALIAN TROOPS LEAVING CREMONA FOR THE FRONT.

demonstration to the inhabitants, who are mulcted in an immense fine to the Prussian Exchequer. The retreat of the 7th Bavarian Army Corps was one of the most picturesque incidents of the war, insignificant as it may have been when compared with what followed with respect to important military movements—indeed, such an event occurring in the wonderful old banking town of Frankfort was in itself a matter for history. For this quiet commercial community to be disturbed by the clang of arms was an inversion of all human expectations; for the old walls, ramparts, and fosses were long ago removed, the space once occupied by them and the glacis being planted and formed into peaceful promenades. Imagine, then, these beautiful heights crowded with troops and the baggage of a retreating army, making a forced march before the approach of the invaders, who, using their victory pretty extensively, made the traders and bankers pay smartly for the privilege of avoiding unrestrained pillage.

The entry into the sordid streets of Trautenuau, however, was so ugly a piece of fighting that the Prussians may have still remembered it with some fierce desire to make reprisals; but here they met with sterner stuff in the Austrian troops who occupied the houses. It was here that the invaders were saluted with hot pitch and boiling water from the windows, and found that every step was obstinately contested. Our Engraving represents the scene in one of the streets, where the scattered soldiers endeavoured to break in and dislodge the Austrian defenders. It is in connection with this affair at Trautenuau that the Breslau papers relate a remarkable incident. A wealthy Jewish merchant of that city offered 100 thalers (£14 odd) to the Jewish soldier who should first obtain the grade of officer by bravery on the battle-field, and 50 thalers to the Jewish soldier who should capture a flag from the enemy. Both prizes were gained by Corporal Süsskind (of the firm of Wiener and Süsskind, of Breslau), who, in the combat near Trautenuau, on June 27, captured a flag from the enemy, and for his boldness was forthwith promoted



POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING TRANSFERRED FROM THE CELLS AT GRADISCA TO THE PRISON OF SAN SEVERO, VENICE.

by the Crown Prince to the grade of officer. This incident attracted the more attention as the flag was the identical one which, a century before, in the War of Seven Years, had been captured by the Austrians from the Prussians under Frederick the Great.

The rejoicings at Berlin, now that the war has been brought to a conclusion, have been of the most triumphant character; and the King has been the centre of those congratulations, which have been extended with equal enthusiasm to the Princes. The opening of the Chambers and his Majesty's speech have for the present terminated the popular demonstrations, which, it may be hoped, have been prompted as much by the gratifying intelligence of peace as by the success of the national arms; the latter having been celebrated by the ceremony represented in our Engraving, on the occasion of the troops bearing the captured Austrian flags in triumph before the Royal palace.

"LE PRINTEMPS."

THIS year's fine-art exhibition in Paris has received, perhaps, more attention than has been accorded to the displays of many previous years; and, indeed, the great variety of subjects chosen by the artists whose works have been selected, as well as the general excellence of the performances, entitle the gallery of 1866 to a certain pre-eminence.

Among those pictures which are remarkable as illustrating the best peculiarities of the French school, the painting from which our Engraving is taken challenges especial notice; for in it M. Marchal has succeeded in combining with the ordinary pleasant mannerisms of the studio much more real truth and sentiment than is ordinarily to be found in kindred subjects. There is evidently a very poetical feeling in the choice of all those accessories which heighten the effect of the story of the picture, and the details are admirably treated; while the figure of the girl, whose springtide of life is full of delightful day-dreaming, is exquisitely painted. The pose of the body and the position of the hands are both admirably true to nature, while the great feature of the work is the evidence of perception in the artist manifested by the perfect repose and reverie expressed in the face of the girl, whose musings have been led far away from all surroundings except the tender green of the budding withes that swing so gently at the open window fanned by the gentle breath of spring.

THE "TOMB OF THE CHRISTIAN," IN THE PLAIN OF MITIDJA, ALGERIA.

OUR Engraving represents one of the most remarkable of the numerous remains of antiquity in Algeria, which has just become of greater interest in consequence of the discovery of the real building, which has for ages been hidden beneath the outer crust of what proves to be a fine monument of early architecture. This singular building has been noticed over and over again by travellers, since it lies conspicuously enough on the route after crossing the River Mas-safray, in the district along the shore of the Mediterranean, including three important towns. Its name of Koubber Romeah, or "The Tomb of the Christian Woman," has lost all meaning; and the Turkish title of Maltapasy, or "Treasure of the Sagarloaf," has but a vague signification, although it perhaps refers to the popular opinion respecting buried riches in similar monuments. The singular pile has been supposed by many antiquaries to be the ancient family sepulchre of the Kings of Mauritania. It is situated on the mountainous part of the Sabel or coast range, seven miles to the east of Tefessad, and consists of a solid and compact edifice, built with the finest freestone, 100 ft. high, and with a diameter of 90 ft. It is of a circular shape, rising with steps quite up to the top, like the Egyptian pyramids. The elegance and beauty of the shape and materials show it to be older than the Mohammedan conquests; and it is thought not improbable by some to be the monument which Mela places between Jol and Icosium, and which he attributes to the Royal family of Nubian Kings.

It was determined by the French Emperor, during his recent visit to Algeria, that this edifice should be opened, and the task was con-

fided to M. Berbrugger, the Conservator of the Algerian Museum, who has already explained many of the Algerian antiquities, and to the geographer, Mr. MacCarthy. The monument, as a whole, comprises a massive polygon, circumscribed by a colonnade, containing sixty columns of the Ionic order, and surmounted by a regularly-graduated cone. The height from the base to the cornice of the colonnade is twelve metres. The whole is built of long stones, resting on a foundation of smaller ones, and of mortar made with red earth. The four points of contact of the circle with the bases of the pedestals are placed in the direction of the four cardinal points of the compass, and are marked by four false doors, which serve to break the monotony of the colonnade. Each of these false doors is composed of an immense slab of granite, marked out with four panels by a Latin cross, carved in relief.

The columns of these doors only differ from those of the colonnade by their capitals being composed of palm-leaves, instead of being banded; and all these capitals comprise the architrave, and are joined by a garland of pansies. The greater number of the exterior stones which formed the conical summit have been displaced, and so have fallen to the base of the building, carrying with them a portion of the main structure. It is probable, therefore, that in its

Italy. The Duke, acting for the most part as his own steward, introduced amongst the rural populations accessible to his influence such improvements as greatly raised their condition, and brought such modern innovations to bear on the culture of his estates as considerably ameliorated the land. On the other hand, the noble co-operation in all his views of the lady who has been the partner of his life served to lighten many a burden of misery amongst the destitute and distressed. Amongst the labouring population of Italy much good may be effected by kindly supervision, especially in the fever-stricken districts. For example, the beautiful site of Ardea (which is amongst the Duke's possessions), famous for its cyclopean remains and a luxuriant verdure and gorgeousness of vegetation second to none, is a district charged with the deadly vapours of the malaria. Over hill and dale, over brook and grassy knoll, this insidious influence extends itself so as to make residence there impossible save for a few months of the year. The grounds serve for pasture to the wild buffalo, and a handsome breed of Roman horses belonging to the Duke graze upon their surface. Much was done by its late possessor in the way of help to the once-decimated population in those parts. Ever thoughtful for the educational improvement of the lower orders, Duke Sforza

perfect state the monument was from 40 to 45 metres in height.

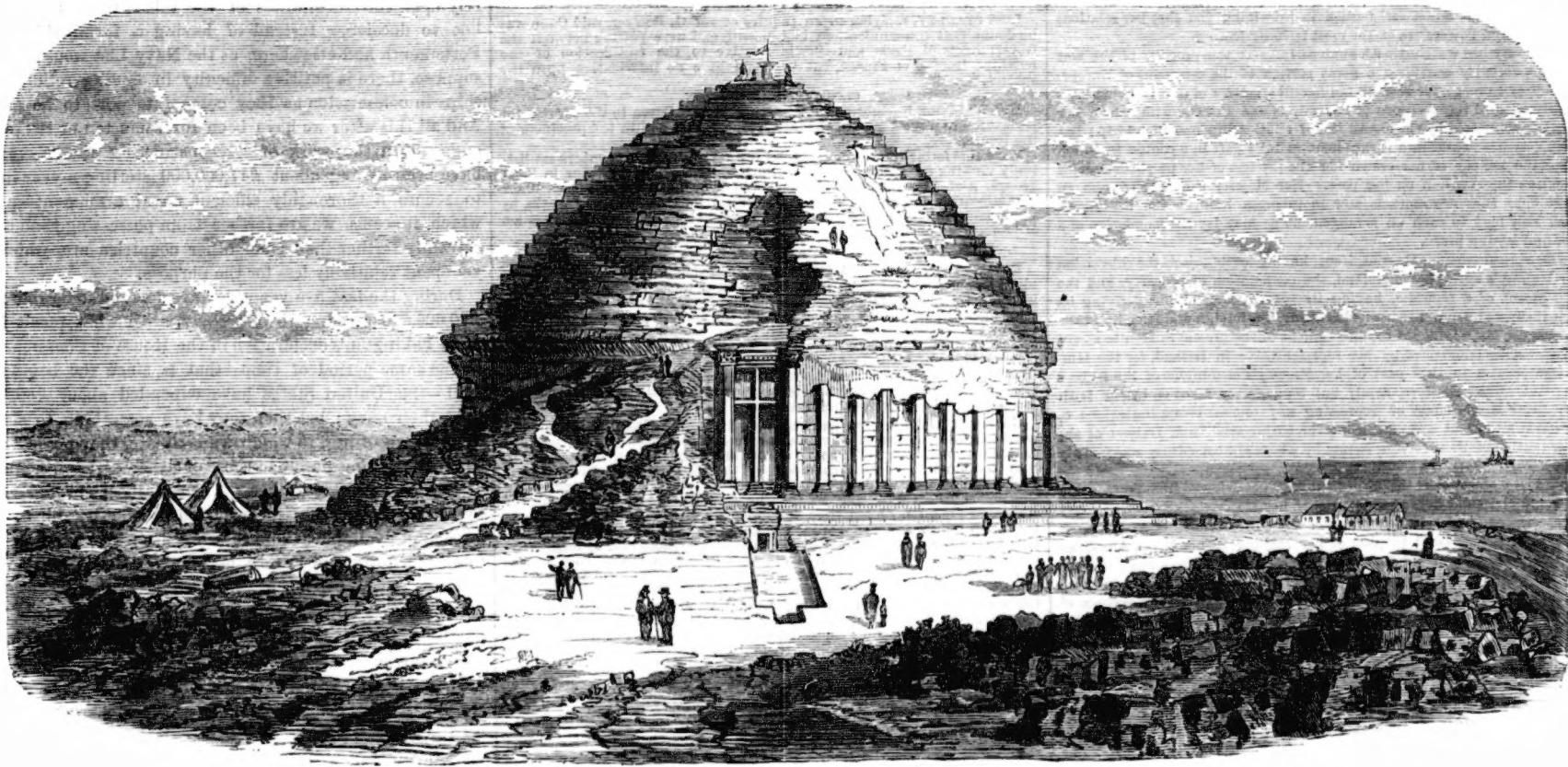
The four false gates and that portion of the building between the gate on the north and that on the east are at present entirely disencumbered of the masses of stones which concealed them. Twenty-one columns are now visible; and the search for the entrance has rendered it necessary to make thirteen borings, the two first of which gave no result, but at the third there was discovered a small cavity at the bottom of the edifice, and almost in its centre. It was desirable to continue the experiments, however, in order to discover some terrace or passage leading to the interior; and, on May 5, the explorers discovered a large cavity; and this, having been cleared and afterwards lighted by means of Bengal fires, was found to lead to a gallery situated at the basement. The excavations have since been continued with the utmost care, and may be rewarded by the discovery of some index or record that will reveal the origin and intention of this ancient and interesting building.

THE LATE DUKE SFORZA CESARINI.

WE regret to have to announce the death of a distinguished Roman nobleman and patriot, Duke Sforza Cesarini, whose political career, closely interwoven for many years past with the Liberal policy of Italy, has offered a bright exception to the life of his class in Rome, the members of which, as is well known, are mostly addicted to Austro-clerical and obscurantist views. Born, in 1807, at Rome, the Duke, in 1837, became allied in marriage with an English lady of property, Miss Caroline Shirley, by whom he had two sons. A study of the character and circumstances of Italy early convinced the Duke, who was a man of shrewd insight, that the salvation of Italy would in a great measure be derived from the monarchico-constitutional institutions of Piedmont. He therefore declined to take part in the Roman Republic when the latter, for a brief season, flourished under the auspices of Signor Mazzini. But even so long ago as 1848 he turned yearningly towards the star of Savoy. A staunch adherent at heart to the policy of Piedmont, hoping, sometimes against hope, in the rising fortunes of Italy, even in those times of adversity when its fortunes seemed most depressed and obscure, he not only clung steadily to the same views, but implanted his own sterling principles and determined resolution in the heart of his sons, who were reared to the profession of arms. The eldest, Francisco (the present Duke), entered the Piedmontese army after a thorough military training at the military academy of Turin. Mild, pleasant, and unassuming in manner towards his subordinates, the Duke was also a kindly and enlightened administrator of his extensive and diversified estates. These domains were situated in the Roman States, and in several of the most important provinces of



"LE PRINTEMPS."—(FROM THE PICTURE BY MARCHAL, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)



THE "TOMB OF THE CHRISTIAN" IN THE PLAIN OF MITIDJA, ALGERIA.

founded in the village of Genzano, over the lonely dwellings of which the ducal palace presides like a princely domain, an infant school, where 180 children of both sexes were taught at his expense. The Duke's family seat at Genzano is well known to friendly visitors at that hospitable mansion, and is the constant resort of all those strangers who visit Rome and its environs. Its lovely site overhanging Lake Nemi, its garden luxuriant with the growth of a southern vegetation, improved by the discerning culture of English taste (which latter has presided over its embellishment), all these are circumstances which tend to make it a favourite resort. This beautiful country seat has also been graced by the presence of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, when the latter made his Continental tour, and it will be remembered with pleasure by all those who have seen it. Amongst the Duke's possessions is an old historical castle in the neighbourhood of Parma, piquant with strange and interesting records of the past. But amongst the most precious gems of beauty and records of interest to be sought amongst the various belongings of the late Duke is a chapel at Santa Fiora, on the Tuscan territory, bordering on the Roman States, containing some of the most choice specimens of Lucca della Robbia's terra-cotta works. Each side of this famous family chapel, as well as the whole pulpit, is storied in the noblest manner by that master's art. These interesting works were wrought by the artist for the Counts of Santa Fiora, once powerful and celebrated. The title, with the estates of that family, were inherited by the Dukes Cesarini. It was as representative of the district of Santa Fiora that the late Duke Sforza was created deputy in the Italian Parliament in 1860; later he was raised to senatorial honours, and decorated with the "commendata" of St. Maurice and Lazarus by the King's hand. He also was selected to be the representative of the Italian Government at Viterbo during the short period when the city had proclaimed its aspirations to liberty. The late Duke Sforza was animated by a high sense of duty in the performance of all these high functions and charges. Like most Italians who aspire to the total freedom of their country, the Duke also was desirous for its total liberation from the stranger's yoke and from priestly dominion, and he looked upon "Rome" as the Italian capital by right. He never would, with any patience, hear of the Convention of September; and in his abhorrence of this transaction he joined hands with the Piedmontese party and those of its members who were the most averse to that engagement. He also heartily adopted the famous motto of Cavour, "Libera Chiesa in libero Stato," and Rome as the centre of Italian Liberal power. Firm in his admiration of those worthy northerners of Italy from whom the present liberties of the country have issued, and who have with untiring patience and increasing vigour of purpose made continual sacrifices in life and property in order to serve its cause, he, just before the war broke out, whilst the whole country was in a fervour of expectation and excitement, devoted the sum of 500*l.* per month to be given in subsidy to those destitute Turinese families whose relatives had departed for the camps. As "Syndic" of Santa Fiora (a post to which he was elected several years since) he was strenuous in his efforts to improve the condition of the rural populations in the district. There, again (as is well known through common report), a gentle hand alleviated distress and ministered to the sick and sorrowful, so that the presence of the noble pair was looked upon as a blessing by the humble classes, so often neglected in Italy, where the higher orders do not, as in England, live at their country seats, and are, therefore, not placed in direct contact with the wants and requirements of their tenants and retainers. At his country seat at La Motta (a lovely spot in the neighbourhood of Turin), whilst the Duke's thoughts were occupied with pregnant and stirring aspirations for the immediate solution of the great question of Italy, whilst both his noble boys were fighting for their country at the King's side, he was struck by the hand of death—July 16—before the anxious and vital problem of Italy was finally solved. The young Dukes, Francesco and Bosio, called suddenly from the field, where they were on duty, to their dying parent's side, heard him with his last breath repeat his burning aspirations for Italy. It was the last echo of a voice which had spoken the same accent throughout life. "Let Italy," he said, "henceforth eschew all foreign influence, either Austrian or French, and let its people be nothing but Italians." And as his thoughts at moments wandered from the world's actuality, still dreams of Italy flickered within his troubled brain, until mayhap a vision of her future splendour and glory brought peace at last. He leaves behind him, besides his afflicted widow, his two sons—the present Duke Francesco, born in 1810, and the second son, Bosio, born in 1845.—*Daily News*.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Parliament was prorogued by Royal Commission, the Lords Commissioners being the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Buckingham, and the Earls of Malmesbury, Bradford, and Cadogan. The House of Peers met at half-past one o'clock, and at two o'clock the Duke was deputed, as usual, to summon the Commons to the bar. On the arrival of the Speaker with a numerous posse of members, the Lord Chancellor read the following message from her Majesty:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

We are commanded by her Majesty, in releasing you from the labours of a protracted Session, to convey to you her Majesty's acknowledgments for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to your Parliamentary duties.

Her Majesty has much satisfaction in informing you that her relations with all foreign Powers are on the most friendly footing.

Her Majesty has watched with anxious interest the progress of the war which has recently convulsed a great portion of the continent of Europe. Her Majesty cannot have been an indifferent spectator of events which have seriously affected the positions of Sovereigns and Princes with whom her Majesty is connected by the closest ties of relationship and friendship; but her Majesty has not deemed it expedient to take part in a contest in which neither the honour of her crown nor the interest of her people demanded any active intervention on her part. Her Majesty can only express an earnest hope that negotiations now in progress between the belligerent Powers may lead to such an arrangement as may lay the foundation of a secure and lasting peace.

A wide-spread treasonable conspiracy, having for its objects the subversion of her Majesty's authority in Ireland, the confiscation of property, and the establishment of a republic, having its seat in Ireland, but deriving its principal support from naturalised citizens of a foreign and friendly State, compelled her Majesty at the commencement of the present Session to assent to a measure, recommended by her representative in Ireland, for the temporary suspension in that part of her Majesty's dominions of the Habeas Corpus Act. That measure, firmly but temperately acted on by the Irish Executive, had the effect of repressing any outward manifestations of treasonable intentions and of causing the withdrawal from Ireland of the greater portion of those foreign agents by whom the conspiracy was mainly fostered.

The leaders, however, of this movement were not deterred from prosecuting their criminal designs beyond the limits of her Majesty's dominions. They even attempted, from the territories of the United States of America, an invasion upon the peaceful subjects of her Majesty in her North American provinces. That attempted invasion, however, only served to manifest in the strongest manner the loyalty and devotion of her Majesty's subjects in those provinces, who, without exception of creed or origin, united in defence of their Sovereign and their country. It served also to show the good faith and scrupulous attention to international rights displayed by the Government of the United States, whose active interference, by checking any attempted invasion of a friendly State, mainly contributed to protect her Majesty's dominions against the evils of a predatory invasion.

Her Majesty would have been rejoiced at the close of the present Session to be enabled to put an end to the exceptional legislation which she was compelled to sanction at its commencement; but the protection which her

Majesty owes to her loyal subjects leaves her no alternative but that of assenting to the advice of her Parliament to continue till their next meeting the provisions of the existing law. Her Majesty looks anxiously forward to the time when she may be enabled to revert to the ordinary provisions of the law.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Her Majesty commands us to thank you for the liberal provision which you have made for the public service, and for the naval and military defences of the country.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Her Majesty has seen with great concern the monetary pressure which, for a period of unprecedented duration, has weighed upon the interests of the country. The consequent embarrassment appeared at one moment to be aggravated by so general a feeling of distrust and of alarm that her Majesty, in order to restore confidence, authorised her Ministers to recommend to the directors of the Bank of England a course of proceeding suited to the emergency.

This, though justifiable under the circumstances, might have led to an infringement of the law, but her Majesty has the satisfaction of being able to inform you that no such infringement has taken place, and that, although the monetary pressure is not yet sensibly mitigated, alarm is subsiding, and the state of trade being sound and the condition of the people generally prosperous, her Majesty entertains a sanguine hope that confidence will soon be restored.

Her Majesty has observed with satisfaction, and with deep gratitude to Almighty God, that He has so far favoured the measures which have been adopted for staying the fearful pestilence which has visited our herds and flocks, that its destructive effects have been in a great measure checked, and that there is reason to hope for its entire extinction at no distant period. In the mean time, her Majesty has given her willing assent to a measure which has been introduced for the relief of those districts which have suffered the most severely from its visitation.

Her Majesty regrets that this country has at length been subjected to the fearful visitation of cholera, which has prevailed in other European countries, but from which it has hitherto been happily exempt. Her Majesty has directed that a form of prayer to Almighty God, suitable to the present exigency, should be offered up in all the churches of this realm; and her Majesty has given her cordial approval to legislative measures sanctioning the adoption, by local authorities, of such steps as science and experience have shown to be most effectual for the check of this fearful malady.

Her Majesty hopes that those in whose hands so large and beneficial an authority is left will not be slow to execute the powers entrusted to them, and that they will be seconded in their endeavours by all who have at heart the safety and well-being of her people. In connection with this subject, her Majesty hopes that a bill, to which she has given her ready assent, for improving the navigation of the River Thames may, incidentally, be conducive to the public health.

Her Majesty has great satisfaction in congratulating the country, and the world at large, on the successful accomplishment of the great design of connecting Europe and America by the means of an electric telegraph. It is hardly possible to anticipate the full extent of the benefits which may be conferred on the human race by this signal triumph of scientific enterprise; and her Majesty finds pleasure in expressing her deep sense of what is due to the private energy which, in spite of repeated failure and discouragement, has at length, for the second time, succeeded in establishing direct communication between the two continents. Her Majesty trusts that no impediment may occur to interrupt the success of this great undertaking, calculated, as it undoubtedly is, to cement yet closer the ties which bind her Majesty's North American colonies to their mother country, and to promote the unrestricted intercourse and friendly feeling which it is most desirable should subsist between her Majesty's dominions and the great republic of the United States.

Her Majesty is aware that, in returning to your respective homes, many of you have duties to perform hardly less important than those which belong to you in your legislative capacity. Her Majesty places full reliance on the loyalty and devotion with which you will discharge those duties; and her Majesty earnestly prays that your influence and efforts may, under the blessing of Divine Providence, tend to the general welfare, prosperity, and contentment of her people.

The Royal assent was given, in accordance with the customary forms, to a large batch of public and private bills. Finally, the writ of prorogation was read, proroguing Parliament nominally until the 25th of October next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CAPTIVES IN ABYSSINIA.

Lord STANLEY laid upon the table further correspondence relating to the British captives in Abyssinia. He subsequently stated, in reply to questions, that the captives were not yet given up, but negotiations were in progress for their release.

Colonel SYKES observed that he understood the Emperor Theodoros was willing to surrender his prisoners for a consideration in the shape of Enfield rifles and English gunpowder.

MANAGEMENT OF THE DOCKYARDS.

Sir J. PAKINGTON informed Mr. Seely that he was willing to give him every facility for investigating the Admiralty accounts; but he hoped the honourable gentleman would conduct the inquiry in a fairer manner than he had hitherto, and ask for explanations on the spot, instead of coming to the House of Commons for them.

Mr. SEELY protested against the insinuation conveyed in the answer of the Right Hon. Baronet, and said that if he had committed any error it was entirely the fault of the authorities at Somerset House, who had stopped his secretary in the midst of his investigations, and shut their doors against him.

FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.

Lord STANLEY, replying to an inquiry of Sir G. Bowyer, said there was no doubt that communications had passed and were passing between the Governments of Paris and Berlin relative to the rectification of the northern frontier of France, but he could give no information upon the subject.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

Mr. WALPOLE brought down the reply of the Queen to the address for permission to place a bust of the late Joseph Hume within the precincts of the House.

With this formal proceeding the business terminated; members sat listlessly viewing each other from opposite sides or chatting together in little groups. And so the life of the Session ebbed away, until at two o'clock Black Rod appeared, and put an extinguisher upon its last flickering sparks by summoning the House to the House of Peers to hear the Royal Commission of prorogation read.

RAILWAY COLLISION.—A fatal railway collision took place, on Saturday night last, about three miles from Shoreham, at a place called the Itching-ham junction. The trains from London and from Brighton arrived at the same moment, and the latter was crossing the main line when it was cut in two by the former. A fireman was killed on the spot and many passengers sustained serious injuries. The utter wreck to which several of the carriages was reduced was so complete that it is most providential no more lives were lost. The accident is attributed to neglect of signals; but the London train was very much behind its proper time, and want of punctuality is a most prolific parent of these mishaps.

GALLANT RESCUE.—One day last week five young girls from Langhorne went to spend the day at Pendine, a pleasant sea-bathing place between Langhorne and Tenby. They took a walk along the rocky shore, and before they could return were surrounded by the strong spring tide. A Mr. Richards, seeing their danger, waded to them, but the rapidly-increasing tide prevented his returning, so that he was in the same perilous circumstances as the girls. A lad from Langhorne also endeavoured to swim to them, but failed, and had his clothes carried off by the tide. There was only one chance now left—namely, for Richards to endeavour to remove the girls to a rock some thirty yards off, accessible to a boat. This he was directed to do by some one on the cliff, but the adverse wind and noise of the sea utterly prevented his hearing a word. Just then a gentleman from Carmarthen, Mr. William Davis, of Law, who, with his wife, had gone to spend the day at Pendine, saw the imminent danger the parties were in, plunged into the sea, and with great difficulty swam to the spot, bruising himself much on the rocky shore. He got one of the girls on his back and Richards another, and they managed to convey them to the above rock, returning again for two more. Mr. Davis then returned for the fifth, and with great difficulty rescued her from danger. In about half an hour a boat came, and with considerable effort all the parties got into it, and reached the village in safety. This is not the first time Mr. Davis has been instrumental in saving human life. A few years since he was presented with one of the society's medals for saving a man from drowning at Llanstephan.

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ADMIRALTY MANAGEMENT.

WE daresay, if matters were thoroughly looked into, it would be found that mismanagement, waste, misappropriation of funds, and "paying too much for the whistle" prevail in all departments of the public service of this country, in a greater or less degree. John Bull generally pays rather dearly for his whistle, whatever form the instrument may happen to assume in his mind; but as the naval whistle is the one upon which he has long been accustomed specially to pride himself as to his skill in performing, of course it is in the department presided over by the Board of Admiralty that the greatest degree of wasteful—or at least unprofitable—expenditure takes place. And this seems to be an evil which there is no means of curing. We can get no remedy for this consumption of the purse—at the Admiralty. It appears to matter little who is at the head of affairs, or whether Whigs or Tories rule. The results are the same: large expenditure, meagre products, sharp criticism, and severe censure by the "outs" of the doings of the "ins," invariably followed by marvellously small performances by those same "outs" when by dint of criticism and censure they have become the "ins." Thus Sir John Pakington condemned the system of management pursued by the Whig Board, over which Sir Charles Wood and others presided; then Lord Clarence Paget condemned the conduct of both Whigs and Tories, and in virtue of that censure got himself installed as Secretary to the Admiralty; and now we have Sir John Pakington once more in office, and once more proclaiming the shortcomings of his predecessors. The Duke of Somerset and Lord Clarence, who held unchecked control of naval affairs for several years, have, according to the present First Lord, managed worse than any of their predecessors.

The nation supposed that the Navy was being reconstructed, if not upon the most perfect conceivable models, at least after the most approved current fashion, and certainly was paying enough for the purpose; but it seems no such result has been attained. The Navy has not been reconstructed on any principle at all. We have few ships, comparatively speaking, that are of the slightest use under the changed circumstances of the times in which we live. The money voted for the purpose of building new ships on new models has been muddled away in repairing and maintaining vessels which are no longer of the least value as war ships; and the consequence is that, while we can muster—on paper—a formidable array of men-of-war in all sorts of obsolete styles of construction, we have practically, according to Sir John Pakington, no naval reserve whatever. Our Navy List is a sham, a delusion, a snare. We cannot rely upon the truthfulness of the tale it tells us. It flatters but to deceive. Instead of having a formidable fleet at Portsmouth and elsewhere, as the Navy List would lead us to suppose, there is positive difficulty in finding reliefs for the ships in commission as they come into port to be paid off. And all this after we have been for some ten or twelve years engaged in the work of "reconstructing the Navy," and have been paying about £17,000,000 sterling a year in order to secure a thoroughly efficient naval armament—a thing which, it seems, we are further from possessing than ever!—certainly further than some other countries are, which have yet spent relatively less for the purpose.

During the last five years we have devoted somewhere about £70,000,000 sterling to our Navy, with what result let Sir John Pakington's declaration in the House of Commons show. In the same period of time—that is, since the beginning of 1861—the United States have expended about £80,000,000 upon their navy; but then they have something to show for it, since, according to their own estimate, they possess a navy equal in fighting power to those of nearly all the other nations of the world put together. Then France, our old rival at sea, is alleged to be better provided in effective ships, efficient guns, and available sailors than we are; but, large as is the total expenditure of France, her navy does not cost so much as ours. Prussia is not at present a naval Power, but she is a great military one, as she has just proved; and yet her expenditure for all purposes—military, naval, civil, diplomatic, and judicial—only amounts to £20,000,000 annually, a sum not largely in excess of our outlay upon the Navy alone, though we have comparatively few substantial results to show for the cash, while Prussia has reaped solid advantages for her expenditure.

The inferences to be drawn from these facts are plainly these:—That the system upon which our Admiralty department is managed is radically bad, and requires thorough reforming; that our dockyards are practically establishments kept up for the purpose of wasting public money; and that the sooner we get quit of the costly fleet—worthless, because obsolete—of ships we now possess, and upon which our money is wasted, the better. If the old sailing and steam line-of-battle ships, which make so prominent a figure in the Navy List, can be converted into effective turret or iron-plated machines, let them be so converted—that is, if the process of conversion shall not prove more costly than that of building new ships from the keel upwards; but if they are incapable of such conversion, then let them be sold, broken up, done anything with, rather than remain a burden on the public funds and a cheat to public confidence. When we are rid of these old and useless devourers of our substance, when we have devised a more efficient system of naval management, and when the Royal dockyards are really made of some practical utility, or closed altogether, we may hope to obtain value for our expenditure, to become the possessors of a truly effective Navy, and be able once again to feel confidence in our power to maintain our predominance on the sea—a thing, by all accounts, we are utterly incapable of doing at present.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

MR. GLADSTONE is about to make a tour with Lord Clarence Paget through the Mediterranean, and will probably visit Rome.

A PRAYER AGAINST CHOLERA, prepared by the Archbishop of Canterbury, was read in the churches on Sunday.

MR. GEORGE DOUGLAS PENNANT, son of Lord Penrhyn, was elected for the county of Carnarvon on Tuesday without opposition.

THE SISTER OF THE LATE LORD CLYDE will receive £35,000 of the Banda and Kirwee prize-money.

A MASS OF THE BEST CANNEL COAL of the size of a whale contains more oil than there is in that fish.

THE ORTON BRANCH OF THE MORAYSHIRE RAILWAY, worked by the Great North of Scotland Company, was shut on Aug. 1, in consequence of the want of traffic.

ARTEMUS WARD, the American lecturer and jester, has, it is said, joined the staff of contributors to *Punch*.

A SINGLE MESSAGE was transmitted by the Atlantic Telegraph recently the cost of which was £800. It must therefore have consisted of 800 words containing 4000 letters.

THE SUMTER, late Confederate cruiser, is about to be employed in the Hull cattle trade.

THE PUBLIC DEBT of the United States in 1861, on the 1st of July, which is the close of their financial year, was only \$18,930,797. In 1862 it had risen to \$107,127,369; in 1863 it was \$228,915,246; in 1864, \$362,643,852; in 1865, \$2,682,593,922 dol., or £558,873,546.

THE "FENIAN RAID" on the Shetland Isles, reported last week, turns out to have been a hoax.

JOHN HENRY LEES, of Hollinwood, aged thirteen years, hung himself on Sunday. He had been punished for apple stealing and confined to his bed room, where he was found dead.

THE POTATO DISEASE has reappeared in some parts of Norfolk and neighbouring counties. At present the disease has shown itself chiefly in gardens and on clay soils. Some fine, dry weather would, it is believed, arrest the further progress of the calamity.

THE FIRST POCKET OF NEW BOTTLES arrived at market on Tuesday morning. It was grown by Mr. George Austen, of Battle, Sussex; consigned to Messrs. W. Austen and Co., Borough; and bought by Messrs. Bakers, White, and Morgan, London Bridge, for Messrs. Squire and Tillyer, brewers, Uxbridge, at £16 16s. per cwt.

THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION have resolved that the Queen's prize, second stage, 1867, shall be competed for with breech-loading military rifles. They invite the gunmakers to enter into competition for the production of the best rifle of this description, and have specified a long list of special conditions as to the calibre, weight, sights, breech apparatus, and cartridges.

THE MARQUIS DE BOISSY has been for some days laid up with an attack of gout at his property of Luciennes, near Versailles.

THE GARTER vacant by the death of Marquis Camden will be given to the Duke of Rutland.

HER MAJESTY has been pleased to confer the honour of knighthood upon Mr. Baker, the African traveller, and that of Commander of the Bath upon Captain Grant, of the Bombay Army, the companion of Speke in his African expedition.

A LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM, with all the appliances for draughts, chess, &c., have just been founded in Marseilles, for the use of the English seamen who frequent that port, and who are estimated to number about 9000 annually. The founders of the institution are the British Consul, the Rev. Mr. Hawkins, chaplain at the Consulate, the members of the English Church at Marseilles, and the Bishop of Gibraltar.

DR. COLENSO has prohibited clergymen from officiating in Martineburg Cathedral who have not his license to officiate in the diocese.

A BOAT'S CREW, belonging to the French war steamer *Fulton*, have been killed, cooked, and eaten by the natives of New Caledonia. The officers and crew of the *Fulton*, in retaliation, have taken summary vengeance upon the savages, killing every one they could catch in that neighbourhood and setting fire to their villages. Over 150 had been shot and bayoneted, besides those burnt.

THE ORD-FELLOWS resident in California number 7449, and they own thirty halls, valued at 300,000 dol., besides other property valued at 500,000 dol.

DISEASE AMONG SHEEP AND PIGS.—It is useless longer to conceal the fact that an epidemic disease is spreading over the Wold district among sheep and pigs. By some this is stated to be rinderpest, but others deny its identity with the cattle plague. Among sheep, Mr. Jordan, of Eastbourne, appears to have been the chief sufferer; but the disease is more widely spread among pigs, and, from inquiries made on Monday, farmers on various parts of the Wolds could be heard of as having lost from twenty to fifty pigs by a mysterious disease which they cannot understand. It is also stated that the veritable rinderpest is reappearing here and there among the cattle. After an interval of some time, another case has occurred on the farm above named, and it is stated several reappearances have occurred during the late wet and cold weather in the East Riding. Farmers look with some alarm on this aspect of affairs. The magistrates have declared the following to be "infected places":—The farm of Mr. A. Ingley, of Thongumbald, South Holderness; the farm of Mr. W. Richardson, of Paull; and the farm of Mr. John Mitchelson, of Cameron, all in the East Riding.

SAD DEATH OF A BARONET.—Sir Gilbert East lost his life, near the pier at Ryde, early on Sunday morning, under extraordinary circumstances. He had been in the habit for many years of spending the yachting season at Ryde, and this year his fine schooner-yacht, the *Lalla Rookh*, has been out daily during the regattas on the Solent. She was at her moorings, about 400 yards from the pier head, on Saturday afternoon, when Sir Gilbert, accompanied by a female companion, came ashore in his own cutter and spent the evening in Ryde. Between one and two o'clock on Sunday morning he passed through the toll-gates with the same person, as the piermen supposed, to go on board his yacht. It was high water, and raining heavily at the time, and before they could have got half way down the pier the attention of the few persons at the gate-house at that hour was excited by the piercing shrieks of a woman. Captain Craske, one of the oldest officers of the Royal Mail (Isle of Wight) Steam-boat Service, happened to be at the toll-house in the performance of his duty at the time, and Cousins, the pier watchman, and others ran in the direction from which the cries proceeded. On reaching the round-house they found a lady in a state of great excitement, and a voice from the water was distinctly heard crying out, "Save me! Oh, save a drowning man! I'm all right!" Adams, one of the crew of Mr. Hudson's yacht, the *Caroline*, who was among the few present, ran to his cutter alongside the ship, about 250 yards distant, but before he and his mates could get back to the spot whence the cries came all traces of any person in the water were lost. The search was continued for some hours, but without avail. Sir Gilbert's companion returned to the toll-house, and subsequently went off in the cutter of the *Lalla Rookh*, the crew of which had been awaiting the arrival of their owner at the pier gates, but, on seeing him approach, had hastened off to the pier head, where their boat was moored, and where they had been out of hearing of the alarm excited by the sad event.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

"I am sorry to say," said the First Lord of the Admiralty, lately, "that I have discovered that the Reserves" (meaning the reserve of ships) "are by no means in a satisfactory state." Sir John said this in his most solemn manner and with the air of a man who had made a most appalling discovery. Now, the first question which suggested itself to my mind when I heard the statement was this—Did not Sir John know all about these reserves before he entered office? And I was compelled to answer promptly, Of course he did. There are returns on the table of the House which show in detail exactly the state of our Navy, and are open to everybody; and that Sir John had not read, and examined, and made himself master of these returns, and did not know by name every ship in the service, it is impossible to imagine. Sir John spoke as if these reserves were things kept locked up in a cupboard, concealed from all unofficial eyes, and as if upon entering the Admiralty he got the key and opened the cupboard, and, like old Mother Hubbard's dog, "when he got there the cupboard was bare, to his great surprise." Now all this is simply gammon. Whatever may be the state of the Reserves, whether it be satisfactory or not, Sir John knew as much about it before he became First Lord as he did after, and this solemn statement of his was only a throw for political capital; and it succeeded surprisingly. When Sir John made this statement there ran through the House a murmur of surprise and dissatisfaction, and on the Conservative side there was clearly a feeling of triumph, which, if it could but have been made articulate, would have expressed itself thus:—"There! See what your Liberal Government has done! After seven years of office and spending seventy millions of money, the Reserves are in the most unsatisfactory state." Well, I dare say this is all true. No doubt money has been strangely wasted, and without satisfactory results; but then Sir John knew all this well; and the flourish of it was merely an attempt to gain a little political capital to start him in trade. Neither was Sir John more honest when he replied to Mr. Seely's able and elaborate charge against the Admiralty. Mr. Seely's secretary, in copying a return, had made one or two clerical errors; whereupon Sir John adopted the old official dodge so well known in the House and so often practised in the Palmerston reign. "There," said the First Lord, contemptuously, "what does the House think of that? What dependence can be placed upon any statements which the honourable member may make after such an exposure as this?" John Newton was once asked whether he had read through a book which he severely condemned. "No," replied the reverend divine; "why should I? If I cut a bit off the knuckle of a shoulder of mutton and find it tainted, am I required to eat the whole leg before I condemn it?" And people thought that the reverend divine had said a very wise thing. The truth is, though, he had only said a smart thing—smart, but illogical; for, as we all know, a leg of mutton tainted at the knuckle may be a prime, sound leg of mutton, nevertheless. And Sir John will find next Session, and perhaps before, if Mr. Seely should print his able speech with notes, as he seems inclined to do, that one or two mistakes of a copyist do not vitiate the whole of the elaborate statement which the member for Lincoln presented to the House; and that Mr. Seely is not the man to be thrown off the scent by trailing such a stale herring as this across his path. By-the-way, one cannot help noticing how zealously the late Admiralty officials joined Sir John in the attempt to discredit Mr. Seely's exposure. Mr. Childers, who for a time was Financial Lord, was quite as anxious to stop inquiry as Sir John.

I had an opportunity the other day of seeing a very curious and interesting invention, or, rather, group of inventions, connected with steam-navigation. These inventions are the hydraulic propeller, rudder, and steering apparatus patented by Mr. Ruthven, and exhibited in operation on board the *Nautilus*, a steam-boat of about 80-horse power, and similar in size to the Citizen steamers which ply on the Thames. The *Nautilus* was out for a short trip on the river to show a number of gentleman the system of action of the several novelties she embodies. She first ran up as far as Pimlico Pier, then returned down stream, against the tide, to Blackwall, threading her way through the Pool in a most remarkable manner. This she accomplished from the wonderful power her peculiar construction gives over her movements. She can easily, when running at nearly full speed, be stopped in half her own length; and can be turned in her own length, as she goes round, by the action of the nozzles, as on a pivot. The hydraulic propeller differs very greatly from the paddle or screw-propeller. The engines and boiler are the same; but this is all. The hydraulic propeller has a water-wheel inside the vessel. This wheel is inclosed in a metal case, placed under the water-line of the vessel. The wheel is supplied with water from a series of small holes in the bottom of the vessel. The wheel-case has two bent tubes or nozzles, one at each side of the vessel. The wheel revolves by the power of the steam-engines, and the water is expelled at each side, through these nozzles. The nozzles are bent in such a manner that the issuing water is parallel with the sides of the vessel. There is a contrivance whereby the water from the nozzles may be directed either towards the stern or towards the stem; when flowing towards the stern the vessel will go ahead, and when directed to the stem she will go astern; with one nozzle towards the stem and the other towards the stern, the vessel will go round on its own centre within its own length. The nozzles, it should be remarked, are not placed under, but above, or rather on, the water-line. Most people—and many among these men of science—suppose that the propelling force is obtained by the water being forced out of the nozzles against the outside water. But this is a mistake. The propelling force, which has excited so much discussion, is similar to the recoil produced by firing a gun. Were a gun placed on a line with the keel and fired towards the stern, there would result a pressure, forcing the vessel forward, equal to the force with which the ball left the gun. And if a continuous firing were kept up, there would result an available propelling force. The water column issuing from the nozzles resembles the ball of the gun, and the reacting force which propels the vessel presses on the bent arm of the nozzle in the contrary direction to the discharge. With the hydraulic propeller the propelling force presses directly on the vessel. The paddle and screw press the vessel ahead by pushing back the water, so that the propelling force acts indirectly on the vessel through the yielding water. This causes a "slip" and loss of power, which the hydraulic propeller is free from. Among the advantages claimed by Mr. Ruthven for his hydraulic propeller are—that vessels fitted with it consume considerably less fuel than ordinary screw or paddle steamers; that they are capable of greater speed with a like degree of motive power; that they are independent of their rudder, and can be turned and guided by the action of the nozzles alone; that they are suited to any draught of water; and that should the vessel be pierced by a shot, or spring a leak, the regular supply of water from the canals may be shut off, and the water from the leak taken up instead to supply the centrifugal pump—thus pumping the ship and propelling her at one and the same time. The rudder of the *Nautilus* is likewise an invention of Mr. Ruthven, and has been applied for the first time to this vessel. It is of the usual breadth, but, instead of being in one piece, is divided into four parts, which are held together by joints or hinges. When put over, these parts, by a simple arrangement, form a concave surface to the action of the water, and the water thus deflected presses with great force upon the rudder, which causes the vessel to turn in less than one third of the time usually required. The object of Ruthven's patent steering apparatus is to overcome a difficulty (daily becoming more and more serious) in moving the helms of ships, especially screw steamships, when going at high speed. By this apparatus an extra amount of power is applied to the tiller, which power can be so regulated as to assist the helmsman to the extent of the pressure of the water on the rudder. The rudder, in effect, is held in a state of equilibrium, thus relieving the helmsman of the labour of heaving over the helm, and leaving him simply the duty of guiding it. The apparatus also acts as a counterpoise, thus preventing the sudden shock to the rudder and flying round of the wheel on righting or shifting the helm. The apparatus consists of a lever working on a fixed pin at one end, and with a power applied at the other, but with a

link about the middle of it, connected with the end of the ship's tiller. The power in the *Nautilus* is a spiral spring; but any other power is applicable, from the simple pulley and weight to the most powerful hydraulic piston. The apparatus may be applied to any description of rudder and at very trifling expense. It is difficult, without the aid of models or diagrams, to convey an accurate or distinct idea of the working of these several inventions. I would therefore recommend all interested in such contrivances to take an opportunity of accompanying the *Nautilus* in one of her trips on the river and seeing everything for themselves. I may add that a vessel named the *Waterwitch*, iron-plated and adapted for warlike purposes, has been built for Government, and furnished with Ruthven's hydraulic propeller. She is now being fitted out in the docks at Blackwall, and is expected to be finished in a few weeks.

When the Royal Academy opened its doors this year there was even a larger influx of visitors than usual, and the receipts mounted so rapidly that the R.A.s must have expected a magnificent haul of splendid shillings. But at the close of the exhibition it has been found that the receipts do not by any means come up to those of last year; and it is not very difficult to discover why. The promise which a tour of the studios held out in spring was not fulfilled when the Academy opened. Good pictures had been rejected by the dozen and bad ones had been admitted. The line was monopolised by the Academicians with inferior works, which, being sure of a place and probably a purchaser, were not inspired by the active and earnest spirit that is born of emulation. That the few good pictures which were admitted were admitted by accident was proved by the bad places in which they were hung; and altogether the exhibition showed such evidence of incompetence—or, worse still, unfairness—that the British public took offence; and I don't wonder at it.

I see that a scientific contemporary announces the serious illness of Mr. Joseph Snider, the inventor of the system by which the Government Enfields can be converted into really useful "shooting-irons." The illness is paralysis of the brain; and it has been, if not brought on, at all events accelerated by, "the worry and anxieties of his uncertain and harassing relations with Government boards." When Dickens gave us a picture of the Circumlocution Office and its victims, in "Little Dorrit," he was accused of exaggeration by those who had not seen the internal workings of a Government department; I have seen them, and I cannot help feeling that the Registrar General's returns will never be complete until he includes in them an entry of those who are worried to death by officials.

In front of the War Office, in Pall-mall, there is a little courtyard—a small space of asphalt, which is frequently to be seen occupied by packages containing, doubtless, some warlike material to be submitted to the judgment of the Secretary of State and his subordinates. That space is to be the site of a statue of the late Lord Herbert, which has been recently cast with complete success from a design by Mr. Foley, by Messrs. Prince and Co., of the Phoenix Foundry, Southwark. The figure is colossal, but the sculptor has been fortunate in retaining an excellent likeness of the kindly and earnest statesman who was best known as "Sidney Herbert, the soldier's friend"—and not the soldier's alone. No man better deserved a statue, and no site would be more suitable than the entrance of the War Office, but for one consideration. The real War Office buildings in Pall-mall have been found so ludicrously inadequate to accommodate the large body of clerks supposed to be required for the due performance of the work of the department, that it has been necessary to rent several houses on each side; and even now there is said to be hardly room enough. As rent in Pall-mall is high, the annual cost of these premises is a large item in the Estimates; and, what is worse, is an outlay without a return, since paying rent for a century will not make the buildings the property of the nation. It has always been understood, therefore, that the War Office is to be rebuilt, and that the present arrangement is only temporary. But there is in the erection of a statue in the courtyard an ominous suggestion that, like most of the "temporary" works of Government, it is likely to be more lasting than many "permanent" ones. Let us hope some economist in the House will look into this matter, and insist on another site for the statue—say the front of the new War Office, when it is built. Meantime, the little railed space in Pall-mall might be laid with turf, as a croquet-ground for the over-worked clerks of the department.

I have a fancy for collecting the very worst specimens of spurious rhyming to be found, and have just met with the very crown of the collection. It is entitled, with marvellous absence of all rationality, "The New Alexand—; a Fortnightly Octogenerio Magazine. Octogenerio is the Latin word I mean." I cannot trust myself to criticism, as some bit might, perhaps, be picked out away from its context for advertising purposes. Let the poet speak for himself:—

I fancy my muse sings in grand new style:
Therefore I hope she will your time beguile!
—Some authors wear a long dirty beard on their face:
Now I wear a nice frill; that no man can disgrace!
Some get more than tipsy (queer folks say); go it apace.
I never was in drink; so my mind's a crystal palace!

The poet considers that the late Mr. Robert Burns has not done justice to the glorious old air of "Scots wha hae," and therefore adapts new words thereto. Here is a specimen:—

Earl of Derby is a man:	Riches on him blessings shower:
All his deeds the world may scan:	Therefore his mind's free!
Justice always was his plan:	Disraeli, his compeer,
That's true liberty!	Some day may be made a peer:
Some day you will own his power:	Groat has been his famed career:
Independence still his dower:	The man's an oak tree!
The rest is equally idiotic.	Here is the poet's own account of the way he is appreciated in public:—

Folks in the City say the poet's witty.
If I'm not witty that's a pity!
Then, of course, I must be silly
When I was a boy, and in the street passed by,
Boys in the street used to call out, "Lucky silly Billy."
"Found a marble and broke a window:" . . . that was silly!

After this I can only add the prosaic epilogue appended to the "poems":—

As the above—prose advertisements transposed and put into rhyme and verse by S. C., and inserted in his Fortnightly Magazine—charge only one guinea. The advertisement may be taken from any shop-bill, and will be composed wittily, pleasingly, and amusingly. N.B. These kind of notices are particularly suited to victuallers and hotel-keepers. Payments for advertisements to be received only by S. Cornelius, No. 1, Clement's Inn. A liberal commission given to advertisement agents.

Yes; very likely. They will deserve it, if they can get orders. Meanwhile, the Poet Close must look to his thistles.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The latest adaptation of Miss Braddon's most popular novel, recently produced at ASTLEY'S under the title of "The Mysteries of Audley Court," suffers from comparison with former versions. It has, however, the merit of being thoroughly effective in its own way. There is, perhaps, a little too much music made use of in it; and the chain of evidence which convicts Lady Audley is forged a little too easily and quickly for the nature of possibilities. But the story is a difficult one to arrange dramatically; and Mr. John Brougham, the present cook, has dished up his material very skillfully. The piece, which takes the shape of four tableaux, is very well acted. Miss Sophie Young, the temporary manageress of the establishment, is remarkably forcible in the leading character; but she speaks with an accent which is half American, half French, and altogether unpleasant. If the lady could get rid of this peculiarity she would really be a fine actress. Mr. Ryder was duly dogged and ruffianly as Luke Marks; and Mr. G. Jordan, though a little heavy for his part, played it respectably. The piece is admirably mounted, and the scene of the Lime-tree Walk at Audley Court evoked a loud call for the designer of it, who made his appearance and his bow in response. The house was not so well attended as it deserved to be. The melodrama was followed by a ballet of action, in which the Paynes created roars of laughter.

A new ballet, "The Nymph of the Wood," has been brought forward at the OLYMPIC. The four Misses Morgan dance in it; and, with a neat bit of scenery, the affair goes off very pleasantly.

SIR WILLIAM BOVILL.

SIR WILLIAM BOVILL, KNT., her Majesty's Solicitor-General, is the son of D. Bovill, Esq., of Durnsford Lodge, Wimbledon. He was born in 1814; and is now, therefore, in the prime of life. He was called to the Bar in 1841, and made a Queen's Counsel in 1855. Sir William first entered the House of Commons, as member for Guildford, at the general election in 1857. He ranks as a Conservative, but announced at the hustings that he was disposed to give a general support to Lord Palmerston. This confidence in the noble Lord, however, did not prevent Sir William from voting against him when a vote of censure was proposed in 1864; nor was it likely that it would. Sir William is an eminent member of the Bar. All members of the Bar who come into the House have what Lord Palmerston used to call an honourable ambition to rise—first to the solicitor-generalship; thence to the grade above; and thence, when the shadow of old age lies but little ahead, to the Bench, or to that still loftier height, the woolsack. And it would never have done for Sir William to have deserted his party in a set fight for place and power. In short, Sir William is really a Conservative; and of course, in a great crisis like that of 1864, supported his party. Sir William has a great reputation at the Bar, but in the House of Commons he has never achieved and never attempted to achieve a high position as a speaker. He rises but seldom; when he does speak it is generally upon some legal subject, and we know not that we ever knew him take part in political conflicts. His style is not suitable for party warfare. He speaks well, though, in an easy, flowing, forensic style, and he gains the ear of the House, but that is because he always addresses it on subjects upon which the opinions of an experienced and able lawyer are valuable. Sir William was made Solicitor-General on the late advent of his party, and thus got his foot on the first rung of the ladder of ambition. If Sir Hugh Cairns were out of the way, Sir William would mount another step, and, the Fates favouring, he may some day, and probably will, rest upon the judicial bench and be thankful, or possibly ascend to the loftiest height of a lawyer's ambition.

MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE
DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

SOME seven or eight miles from Reading, a few feet inside the high road which leads from that town to Basingstoke, and just at the point where it skirts the London gate of the park of Strathfieldsaye, a monument to the memory of the late Duke of Wellington has within the last few weeks been erected. The monument is a national one, but not in the sense that it has been raised at the cost of the public. Every passer-by may learn from itself whose the pious zeal which has placed it where it stands. Not long after the death of the great Duke a general desire was expressed by his tenantry to testify their high appreciation of his character, particularly in his relations with them, and their deep regret for his loss, by means of some enduring memorial. They valued him for his considerate kindness, not less than he was admired by the world at large for his genius and success, and they were anxious to proclaim with what feelings he was regarded in a sphere into which the world did not penetrate. The wish gathered strength from day to day, and, aided by the affectionate approval and assistance of the present Duke, it has at length been splendidly realised.

The monument at its base consists of three courses of steps, each 18 in. high, the bottom course being 30 ft. square. Next comes a plinth of dressed granite, also formed of three courses, 12 ft. square and 6 ft. high. Upon this plinth rests a moulded base, from which rises a square block of granite, 9 ft. 6 in. high and 7 ft. square, weighing forty tons. On each of the four sides of this massive stone is a sunken panel. That in the front has inscribed upon it the word "Wellington." On the obverse are the words "Erected by Arthur Richard, second Duke of Wellington, and the tenants, servants, and labourers on the estates of his father, as a token of affection and respect." One of the two remaining panels bears the inscription "He was honoured abroad, for in all the might of conquest he was ever just, considerate, and humane;" the other, "He was beloved at home, for he had great power and ever used it well. He was firm in

friendship, and his hand was open towards the poor." The solid stone bearing these inscriptions is surmounted by a moulded cornice, from which springs a monolith column 30 ft. high and 3 ft. 6 in. in diameter, having a bronze base and weighing 21 tons. Resting on this column, a composite capital of bronze, topped by four polished pieces of granite, forms the pedestal of the statue, which is 8 ft. 9 in. in height. The late Duke is represented as wearing the uniform of a Field Marshal, holding in his left hand the hat belonging to that rank, while his right rests easily on his hip. The monument, which is altogether 82 ft. high, has been erected by the Messrs. Freeman, proprietors of extensive granite quarries in Cornwall, in accordance with the designs



SIR WILLIAM BOVILL, THE NEW SOLICITOR-GENERAL.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. AND C. WATKINS.)

of Baron Marochetti, under whose immediate supervision all the bronze-work has been cast. Its general appearance is one of severe simplicity, combined, notwithstanding the solidity of the materials, with lightness and elegance.

The face of the statue looks from the park of Strathfieldsaye, across Heckfield-common, towards the Wellington College.

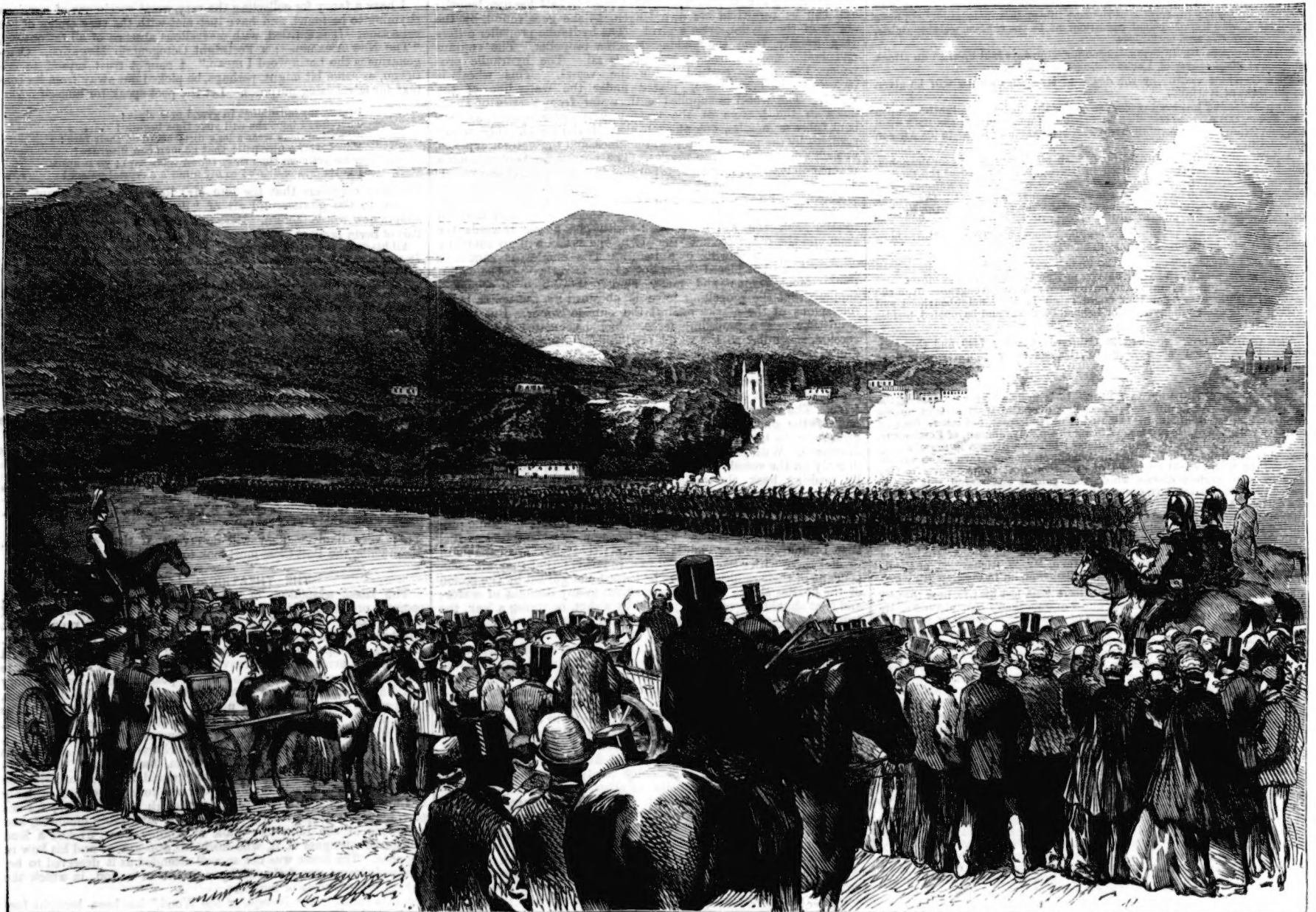
The monument was inaugurated, a couple of weeks ago, by a banquet given by the Duke of Wellington at Strathfieldsaye.

THE VOLUNTEER CAMP AT MALVERN.

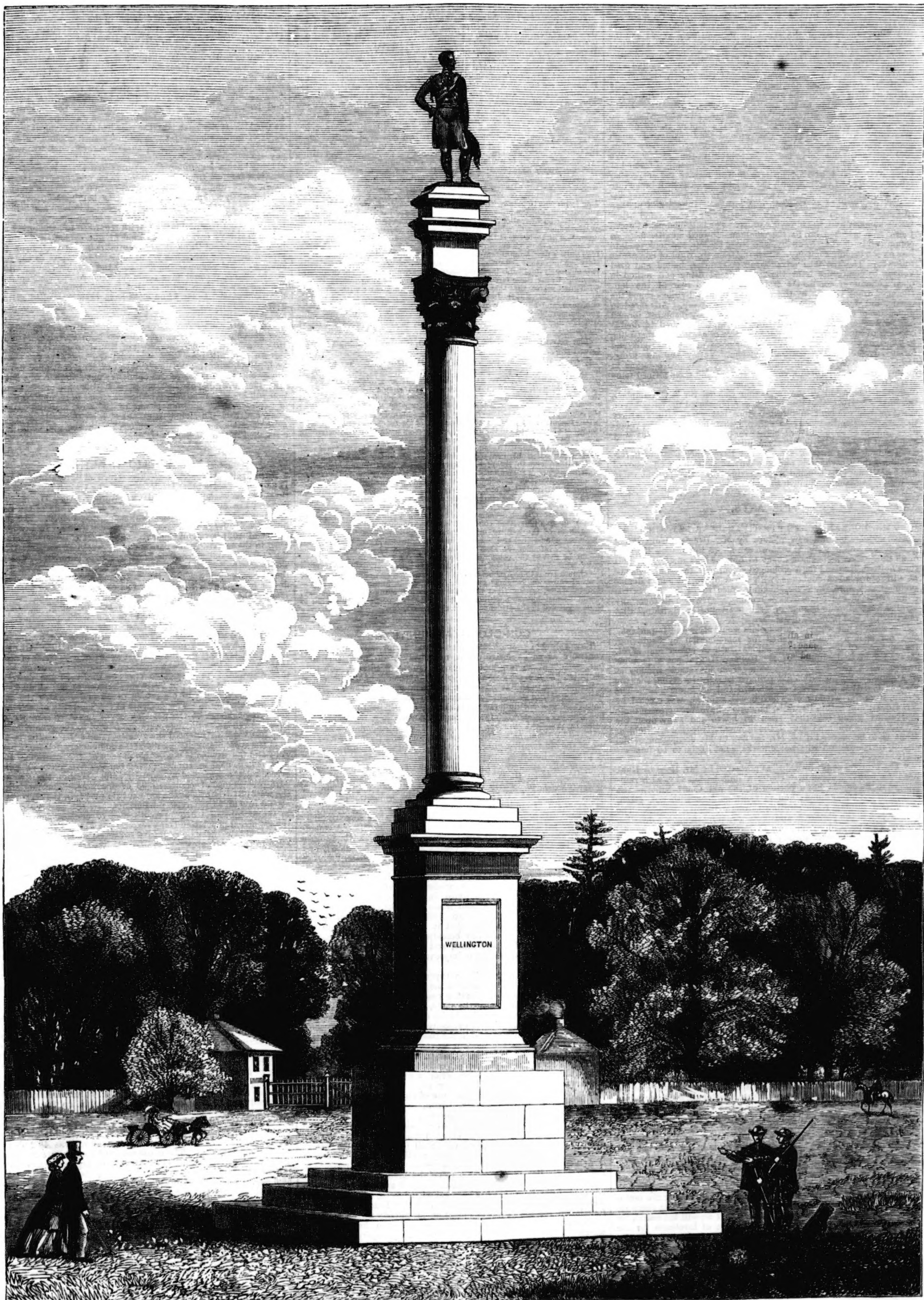
THE encampment of the second battalion of the Worcestershire Rifle Volunteers on Malvern-common, last week, has been an event

which the volunteers themselves and their friends and admirers have been looking forward to for some time with more than ordinary interest. The novelty of such a gathering, at least in this district, was great, and the practical good which the corps will reap from it is expected to be large. In the second battalion, battalion-drills are very difficult of access to many of the companies composing its ranks. In this respect it differs greatly from the 1st Worcestershire Battalion, whose companies, or rather the towns producing the companies, are situated within a very short distance of each other, rendering battalion-drills almost of weekly occurrence; while the towns of the second battalion being so far apart, render it almost impossible to get more than an occasional drill of the companies together. For these and other reasons, the officers of the various companies, headed by Colonel Scobell, decided upon giving their men an opportunity of learning more effectively the rudiments of military discipline, not otherwise to be obtained. All the necessary appliances connected with a military camp were accordingly lent by the Government, and were conveyed to the appointed field, adjoining the common, belonging to Mr. Hemming. Tents, complete in themselves except the tent pole, with apparatus for fixing them, were packed in bags about 18 in. square. These, when pitched, afford sleeping accommodation for eight men, though on the present occasion only six persons were allotted to each tent. One hundred and fifty of these, together with hospital tents, pontoon cooking apparatuses, blankets, tin pots, cans, and basins; zinc plates, leather buckets, waterproof sheets, and mattress-cases, were all provided in abundance.

The disposal or arrangement of the field was that usually adopted in a military encampment. A main street was formed down the centre of the field, and out of that ran the streets, or entrances to the tents of the various companies. "Regent-street," composed the officers' quarters. The Worcester corps, in honour of the "Faithful City," called their alley "Foregate-street." The Malvern men gave theirs the appellation of the "Winds' Point," and a very significant name it was. The Pershore street was known as "Lavender-terrace." These companies occupied the right wing of the camp. The Upton entrance passed as "Tunnel-hill." To the next, the Droitwich, "Salter-row," was a very appropriate title. Redditch followed that, as "Needle's-alley;" while the last, that of the Bromsgrove company, gloried in the name of "Hammersmith." These last-named companies, with the officers' tents in front, formed the left wing. The main street, "High-street," passed down the centre. On the left of the main entrance to the camp was the advanced-guard tent, and alongside that was the tent occupied by a sergeant of police and three officers. Mr. Page's tent and the canteen followed. Beyond that was the battalion cooking-tent, containing eatables of every description undergoing the different processes of culinary art. Then came the pontoons. Further down the field, on the left wing, was the officers' cooking and mess tent, furnished, at a considerable outlay, by Mr. Page, with a cooking-range and other more luxurious appendages not to be found in the other quarters. The commissariat stores occupied two large marquees, in which were to be found a miscellaneous collection of bread, cheese, beer, candles, blankets, sheets, bedding, leather buckets, &c., in charge of Acting-Quartermaster Frederick Simms, of the 14th Worcester company, and Acting-Quartermaster Workman, of the Pershore company. The hospital tent was in close proximity, as were also those of the shaving-master and shoeblack brigade. The main-guard quarters faced the principal entrance, at the other end of the field. A prominent object, near the main-guard tent, was the Malvern marquee, or music saloon and general clubhouse for the battalion, furnished with tables and a pianoforte at the expense of the Malvern company. On the right flank of the right wing were the quarters of the Colonel and the Major, very prettily decorated in front with temporary gardens formed of flowers in pots sunk in the ground. The tents of these officers' servants were in the rear. The Quartermasters' tents, and that of the battalion Sergeant Major Burke, were also on the right flank. Near the canteen was the "post-office," a very useful institution. The arrangements were quickly made, and very satisfactory. Sentries were continually kept



REVIEW OF VOLUNTEERS ON MALVERN COMMON.



MONUMENT TO THE LATE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, RECENTLY BRECTED AT STRATHFIELDSAYE.

in front of the stores, the entrance, and various other places round the camp.

The day of inspection (Friday, the 10th inst.) opened with a beautifully fine bright morning, and, though occasional showers fell, no serious inconvenience was experienced. From an early hour spectators began to assemble, and during the day large numbers had visited the camp. Early in the afternoon carriages were in extensive requisition, and the road to the field was thronged with male and female pedestrians, who arrived from all the neighbouring towns and villages. Most of the shops in Malvern were closed and the day was made a general holiday. The scene in the camp was brilliant and attractive, and the review was, in every sense of the word, successful. The tents of some of the companies were decorated with flowers, rushes, and evergreens: this and the orderly state of the interiors excited much admiration. The volunteers not merely exhibited their sense of the graceful, but manifested a desire to add as much as possible to the gratification of the visitors. Every possible courteous attention was paid to all who wished to inspect the tents. A detachment of the Upton troops of the Worcester yeomanry kept the ground and exhibited much good temper. A number of the Worcester artillery were also present, but did not take part in the review. We subjoin a list of the evolutions performed:—The battalion formed at three o'clock and wheeled up into line to receive the inspecting officer and Lord Lyttelton with the usual salute. It then broke into open column right in front, marched past in open and quarter distance column, right in front, in quick time. Manual and platoon exercise were then gone through, under Major Vernon, and afterwards bayonet exercise, in review order. The battalion next formed fours and marched on to the common, formed quarter distance column on the leading company, wheeled to the left, and deployed into line on the leading company. File-firing from the right of companies followed. The line then advanced in good order, halted and fired volleys by companies from the right, ceased firing, and retired in open column of companies from the right in rear of the left. Changed front to rear by the wheeling of sub-divisions round the centre, and deployed into line on No. 5 company. Advanced in direct line of echelon from the right at company distances, formed company squares and file fired from the right. Retired in double columns of subdivision, both flanks in rear of centre. Formed line to the right on right wing. Wheeled by companies to the right, and formed square on the leading division. Volley and file firing. Deployed into line on the centre company. Formed columns in quarter distance, and fired a volley in the air, and then formed fours and marched off the common to the camp.

At the conclusion of the inspection Colonel Sir E. C. Campbell, the Inspector-General of the district, complimented the battalion on the great improvement manifested since last year. He was sorry that the weather had been so unfavourable, but it gave the volunteers an idea of the reality of actual service, experiencing, as they had, what it was to have merely a piece of canvas between them and the inclement weather. He would have much pleasure in forwarding a most favourable report to Government on the efficiency of the battalion. He concluded by saying that the present camp gathering had conducted much to its efficiency.

FINE ARTS.

MR. HOLMAN HUNT'S "FESTIVAL OF ST. SWITHIN."

THE appearance of a new picture by Mr. Holman Hunt is not of such common occurrence that we can afford to overlook it—least of all now, when he is either about to quit, or has already by this time quitted, England for a prolonged sojourn in the East, whence he will return laden, doubtless, with stores of varied and valuable sketches. Before, however, bidding adieu to British shores the painter has placed on canvas a reminiscence which is especially English—a picture in honour of "the festival of St. Swithin," that most British and brumose of saints.

The work is not what picture-dealers would style an "important" one, nor is it particularly suited for reproduction by engraving. Its chief beauty lies in its marvellous truth of colour and effect. To the friends and admirers of Mr. Holman Hunt it has a peculiar interest as a painting of the view from his studio-window at Kensington—though we should perhaps be right in saying that the view is one that all lovers of art will feel an interest in. The studio, from the window of which it was painted, was erected by Mr. Hook; and within its walls, no doubt, have been created those marvellous green seas that seem to heave and sway upon the canvas, so truthful are they. If the rumour be true that Mr. Holman Hunt is to be succeeded by Mr. Sandys in his occupation of the studio, its connection with noble works is not likely to be immediately severed.

"The Festival of St. Swithin" as portrayed by Mr. Holman Hunt has little festivity about it. Under a dull, leaden sky, with rain-fraught clouds, lies a portion of the old Court suburb—the church in the background; and in front, gardens with wet, green, grass, and shining roofs glinting through dripping boughs. The chief object in the picture is a dove-cote gleaming through a drizzling shower and peopled by pigeons of rare plumage, painted as Mr. Holman Hunt has once already painted them in his "Afterglow in Egypt." Very unhappy do the birds look, with ruffled plumage and an expression of settled despair that assures us they are quite aware of the probable duration of the saint's reign. The majority have taken shelter either under the leeward eaves of the cote or in their nests. One chocolate-and-white bird, however, has seated himself with stolid resignation on the apex of the building: he is evidently a poor fellow who has an uncomfortable home. He has all the air of one who is fully appreciative of the misery of a ducking, but who prefers the pelting of the pitiless storm to the matrimonial jangling of Mrs. P. and the brawlings of the chicks.

As might be expected in a picture by Mr. Holman Hunt, there are marvellous passages here and there which only a great painter and an earnest student of nature could achieve. The treatment of the raindrops hanging on the eaves is admirable, and the drifting shower is indicated unmistakably and yet without exaggeration or trick. The gleaming roof of the dove-cote—which is the gleaming due to an excessive moisture and not to an excessive light—is a remarkably faithful reproduction of a very difficult effect.

It is not without considerable diffidence that we question the accuracy of so earnest and careful an observer as Mr. Hunt, but we cannot help thinking he has been less happy than usual in an attempt to give the twisted thread of water pouring off the cote on the right hand. There appears to be a lack of transparency and brilliance in the liquid, though the rendering of form seems curiously correct. The picture altogether is a remarkable instance of the charm which genius can infuse into what is, after all, a commonplace object. Take away the well-known title, and we have only "a pigeon-house on a wet day," which is a painting we should rather expect of Sir Edwin Landseer than of the painter of "The Awakened Conscience" and the "Finding of the Saviour in the Temple." But Sir Edwin himself could not have painted the birds better, and but few artists could have painted the rest of the work so forcibly as to command our admiration by a vivid realisation of the truth, in its unexaggerated force. What in feebler hands would have been an uninteresting study becomes in the hands of genius a noble picture; noble, because it impresses on the mind of the beholder the useful lesson which good painting almost invariably teaches—that there are beauties in the commonest aspects of nature if we will but search for them, that the world is one vast storehouse of loveliness for the observant eye. This fact—obvious as it may appear—has generally to be learnt of art; for, as Browning's Fra Lippo Lippi very shrewdly observes, men will often take for the first time an interest in a thing from seeing it in a picture, after having passed it by unnoticed half their lives.

"The Festival of St. Swithin" is on view at Messrs. Colnaghi's.

THE GARTER vacated by the death of the late Marquis of Lansdowne will be conferred upon the Duke of Richmond. Lord Boyne is also to be advanced to the Peerage of Great Britain.

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

THE Select Committee appointed to inquire into the constitution of the Committee of Council on Education and the system under which the business of the office is conducted, and also into the best mode of extending the benefits of Government inspection and the Parliamentary grant to schools at present unassisted by the State, have agreed to the following report:—

Your Committee have devoted their attention for the greater part of two Sessions to the important inquiries intrusted to them. The evidence which they have taken, and of which they presented a portion last year, and now present the remainder, is of the highest value and deserves careful attention. It raises several great questions of policy upon a subject of general interest; and many of the witnesses suggest material and fundamental alterations in the whole system of national education and in the constitution of the department of the Government at present charged with its administration. It touches not only upon modifications of the existing rules under which the State assists the voluntary efforts of private persons, but it raises the question whether the action of the central department should not be more largely aided by local organisation; whether the principle of rating should not, to some extent, take the place of the principle of voluntary effort; and whether, as a consequence of these changes, a system of mixed religious education must not be substituted for the denominational system now in operation. These are questions upon which it is obviously undesirable to disturb and unsettle the minds of those who are actively engaged in the promotion of the existing system, unless there is a clear prospect of arriving at conclusions which it may reasonably be expected that the Legislature will adopt. But it would be difficult to come to any such conclusion without a knowledge of the view which Her Majesty's Government may take of the subject. This knowledge, owing to a peculiar combination of circumstances, your Committee are unable at present to obtain. During the whole of their inquiry they have had the advantage of the presence and the assistance of the vice-president of the Committee on Education, who has represented the views of the Government of which he was a member. At the moment, however, of proceeding to the discussion of their report that right hon. gentleman only holds office until his successor shall be appointed. If your Committee adjourn their proceedings until a new Administration has been formed, and has had time to consider the important and difficult questions to which reference has been made, it is obviously impossible that they should come to a conclusion in the present Session. Under these circumstances, your Committee have decided, though with great regret, that they cannot, for want of time, enter with advantage upon the discussion of the important draught report presented to them by their chairman, and have resolved to lay the evidence alone upon the table of your honourable House, leaving it for your honourable House to determine whether they shall be re-appointed next year, in order to prepare a report thereon.

The report proposed by the chairman, Sir John Pakington, contained the following recommendations:—

1. That the Committee of Council on Education, as being no longer adapted to the purpose for which it was formed, should cease to exist.
2. That there should be a Minister of Public Instruction, with a seat in the Cabinet, who should be intrusted with the care and superintendence of all matters relating to the national encouragement of science and art and popular education in every part of the country.
3. That although they cannot endanger the supply of competent teachers by proposing abandonment of the teacher's certificate as a condition of assistance to the school, such a modification of that condition should be adopted as would prevent it from being, as it now is, an impediment to the extension of education.
4. The establishment of local organisation in connection with the Education Department, so as to put an end to the present injurious centralisation, and enable the superintendence of education to be conducted in a manner similar to that in which the poor law is administered by boards of guardians under the guidance and control of the Poor-Law Board.
5. That power should be given to levy a rate for the promotion of education in certain cases, to be defined.
6. That to meet the difficulty caused by small area and population of many parishes, small schools should be combined under a good circulating master, or small parishes combined with a good central school, as the circumstances of the locality might render most expedient.
7. That the numerous educational endowments now almost useless, should be reformed and made available.
8. That the difficulty caused by religious difference should be met by the compulsory adoption of the "Conscience Clause" in every trust deed, and the Education Minister being empowered to suspend the annual grant to any school on proof of exclusion or undue constraint of nonconformists on religious grounds.
9. That the impediments to education in Wales, arising from the state of religious opinion in that country, should be met by the adoption, in a liberal spirit, of some plan similar to those suggested in the evidence and in this report.

GUN-CLOTH AMMUNITION.

THE valuable properties of gun-cotton as an ammunition, and generally as an explosive agent, everybody is disposed to admit; but, somehow, so far, that practical crown of success, universal adoption, has not yet graced any of the inventions of the numerous experimenters in this new field of commercial science. The Austrians, under the skilful guidance of Baron von Lenk, brought the manufacture of gun-cotton a considerable way on the road to perfection, but whether sufficiently far to have produced any remarkable results in practical warfare the inopportune abandonment of this material by them, as a national ammunition, and their return to the use of the old familiar gunpowder, has prevented our learning. It is possible, however, despite the asserted damaging effects of the small residue of acid retained in the explosive material, and those other shortcomings, dangers, and deteriorations of which we have heard so many sinister whisperings, that the absence of such volumes of smoke as emanate from the discharge of many thousands of guns fired with ordinary gunpowder might have given some counter-acting advantages against the Prussian breech-loaders. A superiority, however slight, is always valuable in battle, and less smoke might give the soldier a better chance of seeing more clearly and hitting more correctly. In our own country, the Messrs. Prentice, of Stowmarket, have for some time manufactured mercantile gun-cottons of very good qualities, and, we believe, in very considerable quantities. We are by no means satisfied, however, that gun-cotton, or more correctly to speak, that pyroxiilin (the chemical product which gun-cotton represents) has been made up to the present time with anything like the perfection we are inclined to think it is susceptible of; nor are we better satisfied that it has been applied in practice with as much skill as we may hereafter see exhibited. Certainly, so far as cartridges for small-arms, and especially for military rifles, are concerned, many valuable improvements in neatness and capacity might be suggested.

The greatest difficulty hitherto experienced with gun-cotton for sporting and rifle-shooting has been the uncertainty of the strength of the charge, one cartridge having considerably more energy than another, or vice versa, so that the shots, if small, either scattered or did not hit hard enough, or the bullet fell short of or flew over the mark. These irregularities of explosive force were most noticeable when the gun-cotton was used in the condition of loose fibre, but are of far less moment in the modern woven fabrics of the Baron von Lenk and the Messrs. Prentice. Even in these there are sufficiently marked differences between cartridges intended to be of one size and power, although their general superiority over the former state of matters must be readily and properly admitted. Further improvements both in the manufacture and use of gun-cotton were lately called upon to witness by Mr. Dixon, at the factory of Messrs. Bussey and Co., of New Oxford-street. Every inventor holds, naturally enough, optimistic opinions of his own invention, and is always disposed to claim every possible advantage for it. Many claims thus put forward on behalf of Mr. Dixon's patent gun-cloth cartridges might be equally applicable to any other kind of gun-cotton, such as its general superiority in certain respects to gunpowder. But there are two principles involved in Mr. Dixon's ammunition which merit commendation, and are decisive steps in advance of anything that has been submitted to us, or that we have seen by other makers. The first is that Mr. Dixon takes as the foundation for the chemical operation an already woven calico or cloth, varying in fineness or coarseness according to the purpose for which the explosive product will be ultimately required, instead of weaving the fabric after the cotton fibre had been converted into pyroxiilin, as hitherto had been done by previous manufacturers. Thus a more even and regular explosive material, if the cloth be properly chosen, must necessarily result. The second improvement is the inter-winding with the strip of gun-cloth in making the cartridge of a corresponding strip of paper, the prolonged end of which is wrapped round the central pellet of gun-cotton, and made to form the enveloping case. The commencement of this paper wall between the folds of the gun-cloth is brought nearer or farther from the centre of the cartridge according as

the combustion of the cartridge is desired to be quicker or slower, and thus by a proper adjustment of the paper to the gun-cloth the propelling gases can be caused to feed the bullet, as it may be described, with force during the whole of its passage along the barrel, or for a half, a third, a fifth, or any other portion of its length. The thickness or thinness of the interposed paper, or its saturation with a variety of chemical substances, will, of course, modify the rapidity or the retardation of the explosive combustion of the gun-cloth, and bring it under any practical degree of control. One very important safety results from the last improvement—namely, that as each cartridge takes a certain definite time to burn out, say so many seconds, whenever any large accumulation or store of such ammunition takes fire accidentally the mass must burn out, and cannot, so far as one can judge, explode. Indeed, we hear that something like a proof of this view has really arisen, and that between 4000 and 5000 cartridges in being stove-dried got scorched and took fire, burning out in flame, near a boy in charge, who escaped entirely uninjured, while no damage was done to the building, as would certainly have been the case had the equivalent quantity of 32 lb. of gunpowder been exploded under such circumstances.

After admitting the value of these improvements, we may fairly say that the merits Mr. Dixon claims for his patent gun-cloth charges have a legitimate foundation; and these particular merits are their freedom from the common risks and dangers incident to loading sporting-guns with gunpowder, "on the simple ground that (except when confined in a gun-barrel or bomb-shell) they are non-explosive; they burn and do not explode; if lighted and held in the hand they are harmless; and they may be dropped down a red-hot barrel without fear of danger." With regard to the amount of recoil, which is always less from any kind of gun-cotton than from gunpowder, we do not think it an essential point to dwell upon in the present case; for much has yet to be learnt in respect to the general subject of that phenomenon, and only the most careful experiments and comparisons could give scientific value to any such comments. We may briefly state, however, that some instrumental estimates of the recoil of Mr. Dixon's gun-cloth have been published giving an average of 78 lb. for that material, as against 108 lb. for gunpowder, and an equally high amount for Schultz's gun sawdust.

Mr. Dixon claims for his charges superiority of propellant force over gunpowder; and, from practice we have ourselves seen made with his sporting-cartridges, we are bound to say the shots were thrown unusually close and spattered the target well. Upon all such points, however, the practical test of long-continued use alone can fit a critic to give decisive opinions; but everyone who has any scientific knowledge of the main requirements of a proper ammunition will know at once that an efficient means of regulating the rate of explosion or combustion is one of the most material considerations, and this the simple expedient of inter-folding paper, or other more or less non-combustible material, with the gun-cloth, is well calculated to effect.—*Standard.*

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE Registrar-General's weekly return of births and deaths in London and twelve other large towns of the United Kingdom states that in the week that ended on Saturday, Aug. 11, the births registered in London and twelve other large towns of the United Kingdom were 4173, and the deaths registered 4059. The annual rate of mortality was 38 per 1000 persons living. In London the births of 1021 boys and 950 girls—in all 1971 children—were registered in the week. In the corresponding weeks of ten years 1856-65 the average number, corrected for increase of population, was 1915. The deaths registered in London during the week were 2299. It was the thirty-second week of the year, and the average number of deaths for that week is, with a correction for increase of population, 1366. The deaths in the present return exceed the estimated number by 933. The weekly deaths are declining. 2299 deaths were registered last week; 2661 in the week preceding. The deaths are less by 52 daily than they were in the previous week and the whole of the decrement is accounted for by the fall of the deaths by cholera and diarrhoea from 1407 to 1045. Of cholera 781, of diarrhoea 264 persons died last week; of both forms of disease, 1045, which is less than the numbers in the previous week by 362, thus distributed in respective ages:—Under 20 the decrease of children's deaths is 228; at 20-40 the decrease is 80; at 40-60 it is 42; at 60-80 it is 16; of old people of 80 and upwards the deaths have increased by 4. The decrease in the mortality of children is gratifying evidence of the good effects of increased care for their lives. As the east districts were devastated to the greatest extent, they last week experienced the greatest relief: the deaths in them from the epidemic, including diarrhoea and cholera, fell from 1041 to 774; and the decline is observable in each of the districts. 10,898 persons have died in London during the last five weeks—a number exceeding the corrected average by 4218. Within the five weeks 3116 persons died of cholera, 1338 of diarrhoea. The mortality in the west districts was at the annual rate of 24, in the east districts at the rate of 82, per 1000 inhabitants. In the west districts 225, in the east districts 3182, persons died of cholera and diarrhoea; the estimated population being respectively 511,258 and 607,945.

To facilitate the inquiry into the causes, and to supply information to those who are engaged in combating the epidemic, the particulars of every death in London are now published daily; all the deaths, for instance, registered on Monday in the districts of London, from Fulham to Woolwich, can be procured on Tuesday evening, by scientific men, at the Queen's printers'. The deaths registered from cholera in the east districts during the seven days of the week were 223 on Sunday and Monday, 114 on Tuesday; 90, 98, 71, and 78 on the four following days: in all London on the same days, 249, 130, 199, 114, 85, 94. No greater mistake could be made than to relax the efforts for combating the disease, or for relieving the distress which it has already wrought. The water companies, Dr. Frankland has suggested, should filter their supplies through animal charcoal; and the suggestion is well worthy of the consideration of their engineers at this time, when the waters of no shallow wells can be used without risk. In epidemic districts the water-butts should be emptied, disinfected, and refilled.

The annual rate of mortality last week was 39 per 1000 in London, 19 in Edinburgh, and 21 in Dublin; 20 in Bristol, 23 in Birmingham, 32 in Manchester, 28 in Salford, 25 in Sheffield, 32 in Leeds, 22 in Hull, 35 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and 26 in Glasgow. The return from Liverpool has not come to hand. The rate in Vienna was 35 per 1000 during the week ending the 28th ult., when the mean temperature was 26 deg. Fahr. higher than in the same week in London, where the rate was 44 per 1000.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.561 in. The barometrical reading increased from 29.29 in. on Tuesday to 29.96 in. on Saturday. The mean temperature of the air in the week was 57.7 deg., which is 4.4 deg. below the average of the same week in 50 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The highest day temperature was 70.0 deg. on Tuesday. The lowest night temperature was 48.2 deg., on Friday and Saturday. The entire range of temperature in the week was, therefore, 21.8 deg. The mean of the highest temperature of the water of the Thames was 60.7 deg.; that of the lowest was 59.6 deg. The difference between the mean dew-point temperature and air temperature was 8.1 deg. The mean degree of humidity of the air was 75, complete saturation being represented by 100. Rain fell to the amount of 0.59 in.

TYBURN GATE.—It may not be generally known among your readers that the centre portion of this gate, with the clock, is still standing on the premises of Mr. Baker, farmer, at Cricklewood, who bought it at the time it was taken down. It consists of a high wooden arch, with two doors; under this arch, in its original position, was a weighbridge, over which all waggons with goods from the midland and western counties passed, and toll charged according to weight; the height of the load was restricted to the height of the arch. These waggons were drawn by eight, ten, or more horses, and carried goods and passengers; underneath swung a "dog-basket," which was often occupied by children, or even men, when there was no room in the waggon. The arch and doors, with the old clock over, have been erected at the entrance to a wooden cowshed, and can be seen from the high road through Cricklewood.—*Notes and Queries.*

Literature.

London Poems. By ROBERT BUCHANAN, Author of "Idylls and Legends of Inverburn," "Undertones," &c. London and New York: Alexander Strahan.

Besides the book whose title we place at the head of this article we have also before us the second edition of Mr. Buchanan's "Idylls and Legends of Inverburn." From this edition the poet has removed some of the weaker matter which was contained in the first, including "The Legend of the Little Fay" and the greater part of the "Preamble." There are also some slight alterations here and there; while some poems, which the author calls "Juvenilia" (act. 18-19), make the volume, perhaps, larger than it was before, while greatly adding to its interest. These "juvenilia" poems are, indeed, among the most beautiful things the author has given to the world; and so full of that sensuous pathos and sensuous music which are natural to adolescence and adolescent maturity (the stage at which the poet now stands) as to make us regret, at times, that the complex influences of the literature and life around him have seduced him into any sort of *dictation* to his muse. He is doing great, almost alarming, things; but he is dispersing his power and manipulating too much his experience. We say this, however, with the reserve which is not unfamiliar to readers of our reviewing columns—namely, that criticism may very well miss its mark in dealing with questions so delicate and products of intellectual activity so considerable.

Mr. Buchanan seems to have been working in series, and to have now completed what he calls his "poems of probation." We suppose the meaning to be something like this:—That in "Undertones" the poet sang of life and nature as they spoke to him in such old-world myth and story as most naturally lent themselves to his sense of the beauty and meaning of things; in the "Idylls" of life and nature as they stood before him in the myth and story of the rural life most familiar to him; while in these "London Poems" he sets to music the life of the city as he has seen and lived it.

"London Poems" we can neither analyse nor describe, simply for want of space. But the design of the poet—a most noble and beautiful design—becomes distinctly visible as soon as we have got over the first impression of wonder at the largeness of his intelligence, his power of dramatic individualisation (so to speak), the beneficent daring with which he paints, the generous humanity of his painting, and the originality of his music. In this last particular—the music of verse—we do not find that he has quite mastered himself, or knows his own weak points; but in some kinds of measure he exhibits a princely power of rhythmic movement. In the present volume, the "Little Milliner," "Bexhill, 1866," "Attorney Sneak," some portions of the "Gift of Ros," and the whole of "The Death of Roland," are instances of what we mean. "Langley-Lane" is wonderfully musical, too; but we do not think it will bear scrutiny either as to the psychology or the sentiment.

The writings of Mr. Buchanan, however, present to the most careful, as well as to the most superficial, observation every "note" or characteristic of the true poet; and when we observe how flexible and deep are his sympathies with all that is human (take "Attorney Hart," "Liz," "Nell," and "The Starling,") we may well slide into the use of the adjective alarming in speaking of such a poet. If this is only the "spring" of the arch, what is its course to be? We may well rejoice, meanwhile, in the prospect that we are to have a very great poet, who has that first of characteristics so lately insisted upon as essential to the poet (in the *Saturday Review*)—beneficence, boundless sympathy with sorrow, and with every effort to remove or lessen the pain of living things.

What shall we quote? We will try our hands at

THE LITTLE MILLINER.

My girl hath violet eyes and yellow hair,
A soft hand, like a lady's, small and fair;
A sweet face, peeping in a white straw bonnet,
A tiny foot, and little boot upon it;
And all her finery to charm beholders
Is the grey shawl drawn tight around her shoulders,
The plain stuff gown and collar white as snow,
And sweet red petticoat that peeps below.
But gladly in the busy town goes she,
Summer and winter, fearing nobody;
She pats the pavement with her fairy feet,
With fearless eyes she charms the crowded street;
And in her pocket lie, in lieu of gold,
A lucky sixpence and a thimble old.
We lodged in the same house a year ago:
She on the topmost floor, I just below—
She, a poor milliner, content and wise,
I, a poor City clerk, with hopes to rise;
And, long ere we were friends, I learnt to love
The little angel on the floor above.
For, every morn, ere from my bed I stir'd,
Her chamber door would open, and I heard,
And listen'd, blushing, to her coming down,
And palpitated with her rustling gown,
And dangled while her foot went downward slow,
Creak'd like a cricket, pass'd, and died below;
Then peeping from the window, pleased and sly,
I saw the pretty shining face go by,
Healthy and rosy, fresh from slumber sweet—
A sunbeam in the quiet morning street.
All winter long, witless who peep'd the while,
She sweeten'd the chill mornings with her smile;
When the soft snow was falling dimly white,
Shining among it with a child's delight,
Bright as a rose, though nipping winds might blow,
And leaving fairy footprints in the snow.

And upon this poem we will make the only criticism of detail for which we have room. Let the reader notice the delightful art with which the poet has modulated the innocent sensuousness of the young man in the parts of the poem which we have not quoted, but in which there is all the passion of youth and all the innocence of a naked baby.

Let nobody go into "the country" without taking with him Mr. Buchanan's "London Poems."

Men I Have Known. By WILLIAM JERDAN. London: Routledge and Sons.

It is difficult indeed to review this handsome book. Just look at the bill of fare:—Sir Walter Scott, the Ettrick Shepherd, the poet Campbell, the statesman Canning, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord de Tabley, Lord Chancellor Eldon, Sir James Mackintosh, Sir John Malcolm, Sir John Franklin, and William Huskisson; not to mention the poets Southey, Coleridge, Wordsworth, and Richard Brinsley Sheridan, or names like the elder Disraeli, the Dibbins, David Roberts, R.A.; Sir David Wilkie, and more than a score of other spirits equally known to fame, and all "men I have known." "I have known!" Goodness, what would others not give to have seen them! How greedily we snatch the volume and dip into it.

First in the east-fed phalanx shall be seen
The travel'd Thane—Athenian Aberdeen.

"Lord Aberdeen," says the author, "belongs to history, and history will do him justice"—an expression which, somehow, we fancy we have heard before. "How he came to be less exalted in his lifetime offers a problem," &c. Well, as time goes, altitude is, after all, a matter of opinion; but if to be famous over Europe for learning, refinement, travel, and statesmanship—to be the confidential friend of most of the crowned heads of Europe, and the Prime Minister of England, be not enough for the granite Earl, we leave it to the author to rescue his fame and enshrine it among the "Men I Have Known."

Of Canning he says "it is the pride of my life that I was for years honoured with the confidence of such a man—that I was devotedly attached to him, and that even now, after a lapse of thirty-eight years, I lament his death with distressing emotions, as a great calamity to myself and an irreparable loss to his country." What a pity that we die at all! "Owing to a perfectly fortuitous eaves-dropping at Court it so happened that I could convey to him certain assurances which, if he had required them, would have greatly strengthened his hands as Prime Minister, and did, indeed, enable

him to form a strong Ministry when deserted," &c. It has been suggested there may be people in heaven who wonder not so much that they are there as how they got there, and we merely marvel how this Court eaves-dropper, who enabled Canning to form a strong Ministry, became the friend of the leading statesmen, politicians, poets, authors, and artists, for the kindred quality of genius is really not faintly visible as a tie. This is Boswell without a Johnson; or, rather, the author is himself both Johnson and Boswell. Just listen to one of his pictures of Sir Walter Scott, in what he calls "four epochs in the life of Scott":—

Who is the individual to whom I have just paid a morning visit, at a London hotel? He only arrived last night, and has not yet descended from his sleeping-room. Yet the table is covered with the cards of eminent persons—poets, statesmen, legislators, great lawyers, distinguished physicians, wealthy commoners, authors, artists—all doing homage to this remarkable man. And there lie also many of the prettiest letters, notes, and billets, evidently the flatterings of leading fashion, no doubt to solicit the smile of the mighty "lion" of the day upon their most sumptuous parties or ambitious fetes. I await his entrance.

Next follows a chapter on Richard Brinsley Sheridan. A couple of lines show the author's style:—"My next portrait is one which will appear in strange contrast. Not greater in the difference between the living lustre of the true gem and the flashy sparkle of the tinsel paste."

Of Thomas Wilde (Lord Chancellor Truro) the author says:—"I may also mention that, as the result of a wager with my comrade Wilde, I devised a means of secret correspondence which introduced us to the Government of that date, and afforded the opportunity to make his abilities known."

Shade of Macaulay! listen to this and tremble:—"About fifty years ago, after one of the most dreadful political convulsions and consequent series of desolating wars that ever outraged humanity, peace was regained and the civilised world restored to a condition of comparative tranquillity." How strange that peace should follow war!

Finally, we have squeezed and chewed the whole volume, munched grandiose terraces of honeycomb in search of corresponding essence, and we do recommend it as a curiosity of literature. Senility does not every day think aloud, nor chew the cud of self-glorification. Referring to "Men of the Time," we find that Mr. Jerdan is eighty-four years of age, was editor of the *Literary Gazette* for thirty years, and a writer on daily and periodic literature for the last fifty years; hence his varied connection with mighty men. He published his own autobiography in four volumes; and this volume is, we presume, meant as mere additional sketches. Southey immortalised him in verse; and, as Mr. Jerdan himself is proud to quote it, we give the lines:—

To think when thou wert early in the field,
How doughtily small Jeffrey ran at thee
A tilt, and broke a bulrush on thy shield,
And now a veteran in the lists of fame,
I ween, old friend, thou art not worse beated,
When, with a maulin eye and drunken aim,
Dulness has thrown a Jerdan at thy head!

Nimmo's Popular Tales. Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.

There seems a good deal of publishing enterprise extant just now in the northern metropolis. Besides those issued by such old-established houses as that of Blackwood, Blackie, Oliphant, &c., we have ever and anon books coming under our notice which emanate from the comparative young firms of W. P. Nimmo, and Edmonston and Douglas. The latest of these enterprises to which we have had our attention drawn is the collection of Popular Tales published by Mr. Nimmo, four volumes of which, we believe, have appeared, though we have only happened to see the first and the third. These two volumes, however, we have looked over pretty carefully, having read through the greater number of the stories they contain, and have, on the whole, been very much pleased with them. There is infinite variety in the tales, as well as regards the scenes and the times in which their incidents are laid, as in respect to the characters portrayed and the manner of the portrayal. The reader must have a very singular taste indeed who does not find in these volumes something to suit him, something to please him, and, perhaps, occasionally something to displease him also. What will please most readers is the racy freshness that pervades nearly all the tales. What will be certain to displease some is the exceeding juvenescence of the style in which many of the stories are told, and by which not a few are spoilt. The writers must be rather young at the work, for we find in nearly all the tales that redundancy of adjectives and adverbs which generally characterises the productions of "prentice hands." For instance, in the story in the third volume, entitled the "Veteran of Marengo," there is scarcely an incident, a regiment, or a leading actor in that memorable affair mentioned without having a qualifying adjective prefixed to its or his name. Thus we have the "brave Lannes," the "noble soldier" Desaix, the "intrepid Victor," the "terrible" Zach, "our brave troops," "this terrible juncture," "the terrible hussars," and so on. Really it ought to be unnecessary at this time of day to ransack the dictionary for epithets by which to characterise Napoleon's lieutenants and opponents, and the incidents of his battles. The simple mention of their names would surely have been sufficient. Besides, with all deference to the writer of this story, Mr. James Smith, we submit that it was scarcely good taste to make the narrator the hero of his own story; and it certainly was not necessary to sprinkle the pages quite so profusely with such expletives as *sacrébleu*, *parbleu*, *mon Dieu!* *entrebleu*, *morbleu*, *mille tonnerres*, *peste*, *pardieu*, and so forth, as he has done. The translator of the tale called the "Merry Wives of Madrid," is obnoxious to the same criticism. He must needs describe the Spanish capital as the "royal and illustrious city of Madrid;" and his passion for qualifying phrases leads him into an odd lapse a little further on. "Three ladies, at a fête near Madrid, find a diamond ring, and cannot agree as to which has the best right to the bauble. While disputing on the point, a certain Count passes by, and to him they refer the matter. The Count assigns to the three ladies, who are married, the task of devising a means of annoying their respective husbands, and promises to award the jewel to the one of the three who is most successful. Whereupon, we are informed, the matrons went their way, racking their brains for devices to secure the 'long-wished-for' ring, when some half-hour must be about the longest period during which they can have had any wishes on the subject. We could point out numerous specimens of the same fault, but these must suffice. We would recommend Mr. Nimmo, or whoever does duty for him as editor, to delete at least one half of all the adjectives and adverbs employed by the writers, and then we shall have in these "Popular Tales" a collection of stories as passable in style as they are full of interest and amusement.

Arne: A Sketch of Norwegian Country Life. By BJORNSTJERNE BJORNSON. Translated from the Norwegian by AUGUSTA PLESSNER and S. RUGELEY POWERS. London and New York: Alexander Strahan.

Addison long ago told us how essential it is to the enjoyment of an author that we should know his height, complexion, and other such relevant matters. Probably most people like also to be able to pronounce his name. In this case we assure the young and inexperienced, who habitually stumble at forfeits over Aldiborontiphosocormio and his compatriotic Chrononhotontologos, that the difficulty is not so great as it appears. If they will only, in imagination, turn the *j* into a *y*, they will find Mr. Björnson's name a possible one. If they will then have the goodness to consider the *ö* a compound of *o*, *a*, *e* and *u*, and pronounce accordingly (!) the difficulty is over.

But their delight is to come. We do not believe the whole list of the season contains a single volume that will give such unalloyed pleasure as this little picture-story of the new Norwegian poet-novelist Björnson. It has, first, all the sweet naïveté of the north in whatever is human, and then all the peculiar glamour of the Scandinavian phantasy hanging over it. The story is as simple as a ballad, and we are unable to say that it contains anything more exciting than such old-fashioned trifles as love, birth, death, disappointment, courtship, and marriage. But these ancient things—

the exuvia, the rags and bottles, the marine stores of modern fast literature—are mighty to move, or beautiful to think of, in the hands of Björnson; and he has an almost incredible power of suddenly touching the secret springs of human feeling without warning. His descriptions of nature are wonderful; and so is his quaint, half-unconscious humour. The following we must quote for its tender, suggestive beauty:—

THE LOST SONG.

He went in the forest the whole day long, The whole day long; For there he had heard such a wondrous song, A wondrous song.	Then he tried to catch it, and keep it fast, And keep it fast; But he woke, and away! the night it passed, I! the night it passed.
He fashioned a lute from a willow spray, A willow spray; To see if within it the sweet tune lay, The sweet tune lay.	"My Lord, let me pass in the night!" I pray, In the night, I pray; For the tune has taken my heart away, My heart away."
It whispered and told him its name at last, Its name at last; But then, while he listened, away it passed, Away it passed.	Then answered the Lord, "It is thy friend, It is thy friend, Though not for an hour shall thy longing end, Thy longing end;
But off when he slumbered, again it stole, Again it stole, With touches of love upon his soul, Upon his soul.	"And all the others are nothing to thee, Nothing to thee, To this that thou seekest and never shalt see, Never shalt see."

One scene, at least, is written with great power—the scene in which Nils, the fiddler, the father of Arne, dies of delirium tremens, trying to strangle his wife, the boy seizing a hatchet to protect his mother. But the atmosphere of the book is

Pure as a bride's blush, when she says
"I will," unto she knows not what.

And we recommend it, without reserve, as the most charming love story of the year.

The Dead Secret. No Name. By WILKIE COLLINS. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

The publishers have recently issued these two popular tales by Mr. Wilkie Collins in their half-crown edition of the author's works. As several of Mr. Collins's tales have now appeared in this form, we presume that it is intended to publish the whole of his excellent novels in the same cheap, convenient, and neat style—a fact which will be hailed with satisfaction by his numerous admirers and by all who wish to make themselves acquainted with the productions of one of the most popular and original novelists of the day. Mr. Collins has made for himself a position in fiction altogether unique. His plots are skilfully constructed, his characters are well developed, his narrative is always sprightly and interesting, and his style simple and pleasing. With all these recommendations, it is no wonder that his writings are popular, and we feel sure that this cheap edition will have a wide circulation.

SEASONABLE HANDBOOKS.

Cassell's Topographical Guides. Normandy: its History, Antiquities, and Topography. With an Itinerary for the Tourist. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

Practical General Continental Guide. Red Book for the Continent. First Part. By an Englishman Abroad. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., &c.

Vacation Rambles on the Continent, &c. Second Edition. London: Elliot Stock.

At the annual period when natives of every place are determined on making foreigners of themselves by going somewhere else, some additions to the existing Handbooks or Guides seems to come as a matter of course. This annual rush for Handbooks, always to the same places, can only be accounted for on Shelley's suggestion, that "naught can endure but mutability," which may fairly be taken as the state of mankind. For all travelling purposes, at least, the Continent remains the same year by year, whilst for every purpose mankind changes capriciously; and, paradoxically, he will "be off" with the old Handbook, because he intends to "be off" (in another sense) with the new.

The plan of Messrs. Cassell's Handbooks is even more imposing than that of Murray. "Normandy" makes a volume sufficiently portly to be troublesome to the pedestrian; but, then, it is calculated and intended to be quite enough to last a whole family throughout a three months' tour. It is a comprehensive work, and would be just as good reading at home as abroad. It contains an account of the land and water divisions of Normandy, with general aspects and geography, antiquities, and architecture, and an historical sketch. Railways, populations, &c., are not neglected, and each of the five different departments of Normandy receive extensive treatment in detail. As far as our own personal wanderings have gone, we have tested this work closely, and can speak of it in high terms. The only fault we have found may in many eyes prove a virtue—it is the losing no opportunity of cramming in that objectionable "useful information" whenever an opportunity can be not merely found but made. The mere reader feels absorbed in Normandy. But the reader, turned tourist also, must surely lay himself open to some incomprehensible experience. The book contains very many woodcuts.

The "Practical General Continental Guide" takes the traveller through France, Belgium, Holland, the Rhine, the Rhenish spas, parts of Germany, Austria, the Tyrol, Venice, Switzerland, Savoy, Piedmont, and Italy, and professes to give "every necessary information to see all that ought to be seen, in the shortest period and at the least expense." The compiler, the "Englishman Abroad," certainly gives a greater mass of information about travelling than we have ever seen before; but yet the volume is pocketable, because everything is merely touch and go. There is the brevity of the railway guard or clerk throughout; and if the Englishman does occasionally suffer himself to deviate into a few Pinnockisms, they read more like the headings of the chapters than the real text of the great historian himself. Of course, we take the precision of this guide for granted; and on those terms it can be strongly recommended as a valuable addition to the tourists' impedimenta.

The "Vacation Rambles on the Continent" has arrived at the dignity of a second edition, and is a readable little account of the most interesting places in Switzerland, Belgium, and the Rhine. The writer is professedly doing just so much of the grand tour with each eye turned full on cheapness. He tells you how not to be "done," and is very British in thinking most foreigners rogues. His writing is amusing, and sometimes, as in the pages on the gambling-places, still more amusing from the dense ignorance expected from the reader. Those subjects, besides the Rhine itself, have been well worn in literature of late. This little volume, like its more pretentious companions, is well worth autumnal consideration.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT ON A RACECOURSE.—On Tuesday afternoon, during the running for the Wolverhampton—which are the chief stakes at the races which began in the town of that name on that day, and which were continued the next day—a shocking accident happened, by which two persons have been killed and fourteen injured, nine so seriously as to require to be taken as patients to the South Staffordshire General Hospital, in Wolverhampton. The catastrophe happened at ten minutes past four o'clock, when some 30,000 people were at the highest pitch of excitement consequent upon the coming in of the horses that were contending for the stakes. The race, which was twice round, was a stiff one between the eight horses which contended. Near to the goal was a temporary stand, upon which some 500 spectators had paid for standing-places; and the occupants seemed to be intensely interested in the issue of the race. Like the rest of the people, they were cheering and waving their hats, when, suddenly and with a terrible crash, the whole fabric and all its occupants fell to the ground. The structure was composed of seven tiers of timber planks, fastened to uprights by ropes, the centres being supported upon cross-timbers. Beneath the lowest seat there were barrels of ale. Upon these the 500 spectators and their timber stand came crashing down with varied results. The injuries sustained by some were shocking, and only little reasonable hope is expressed of their recovery.



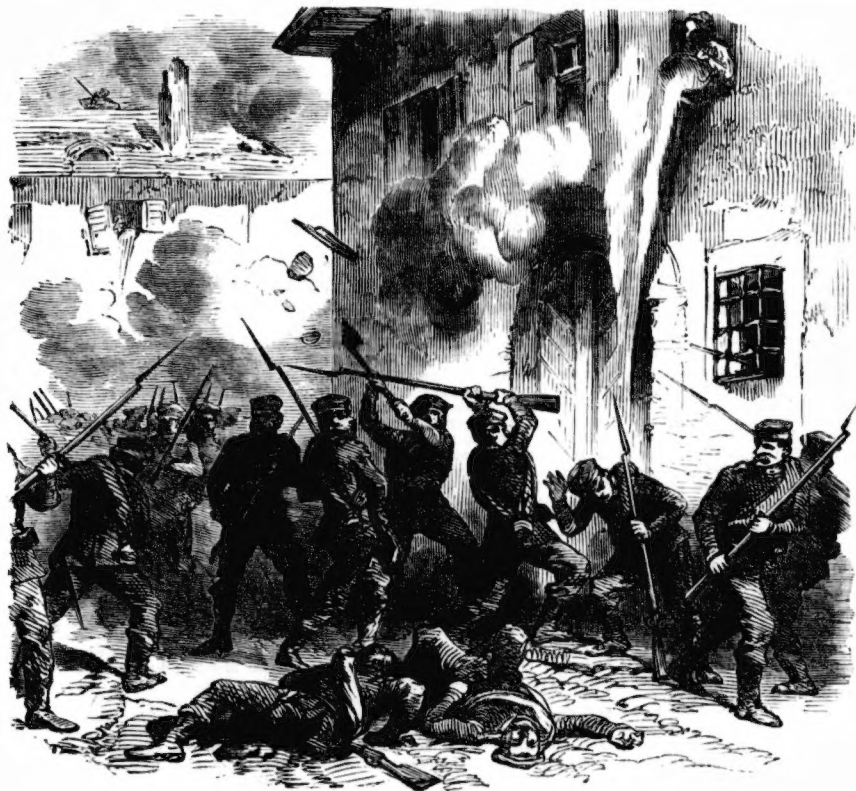
THE FOUNTAIN MOLIN IN THE EXHIBITION OF FINE ARTS AND INDUSTRY AT STOCKHOLM.

THE GRAND NAVE OF THE EXHIBITION AT STOCKHOLM.

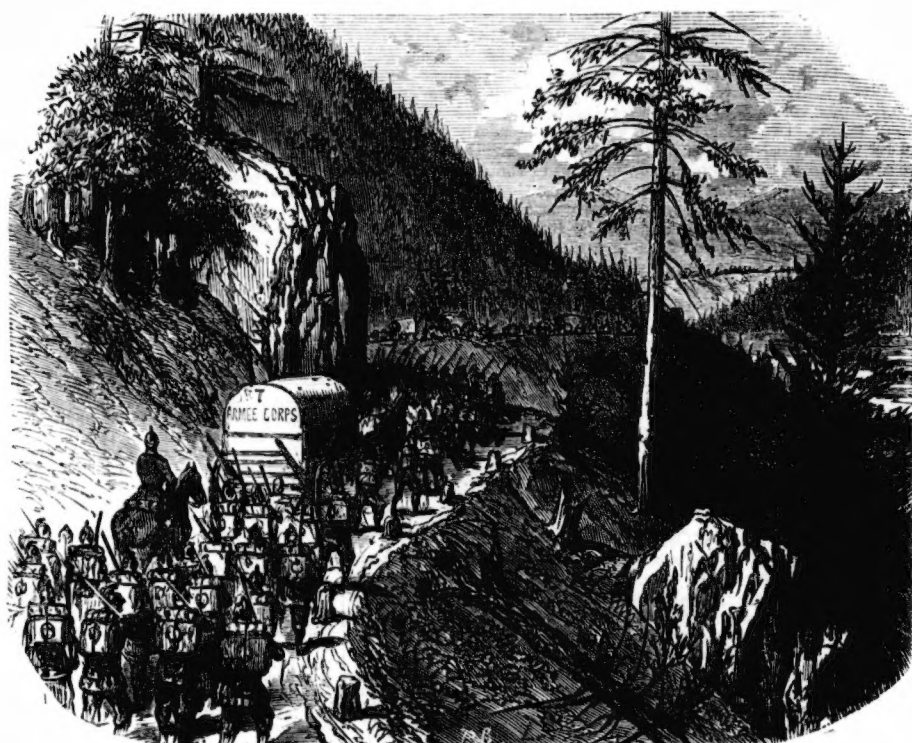
We have already given some description of the Great Exhibition opened at Stockholm, and our Engraving this week represents the dome of the grand nave, in the midst of which is placed a fountain,

which is said to be the masterpiece of Molin, the Swedish sculptor. The figures composing the allegorical group are so exquisite in their purely artistic character that they leave nothing to be desired, and the whole work is so suggestive as to be one of the principal attractions of the building, although the entire exhibition is more remarkable for its works of art than for its industrial objects. We

need only refer to our previous article in noticing this addition to those specimens of northern sculpture which are already so famous. The visitors to the Swedish capital who have tasted the fascinations of the strange, wild poetry of this land of sagas, ocean-nymphs, and sea-kings, will find all their dreams revived as they stand before this latest production of a modern master.



EPISODE OF THE ENTRY OF THE PRUSSAINS INTO TRAUTENAU.



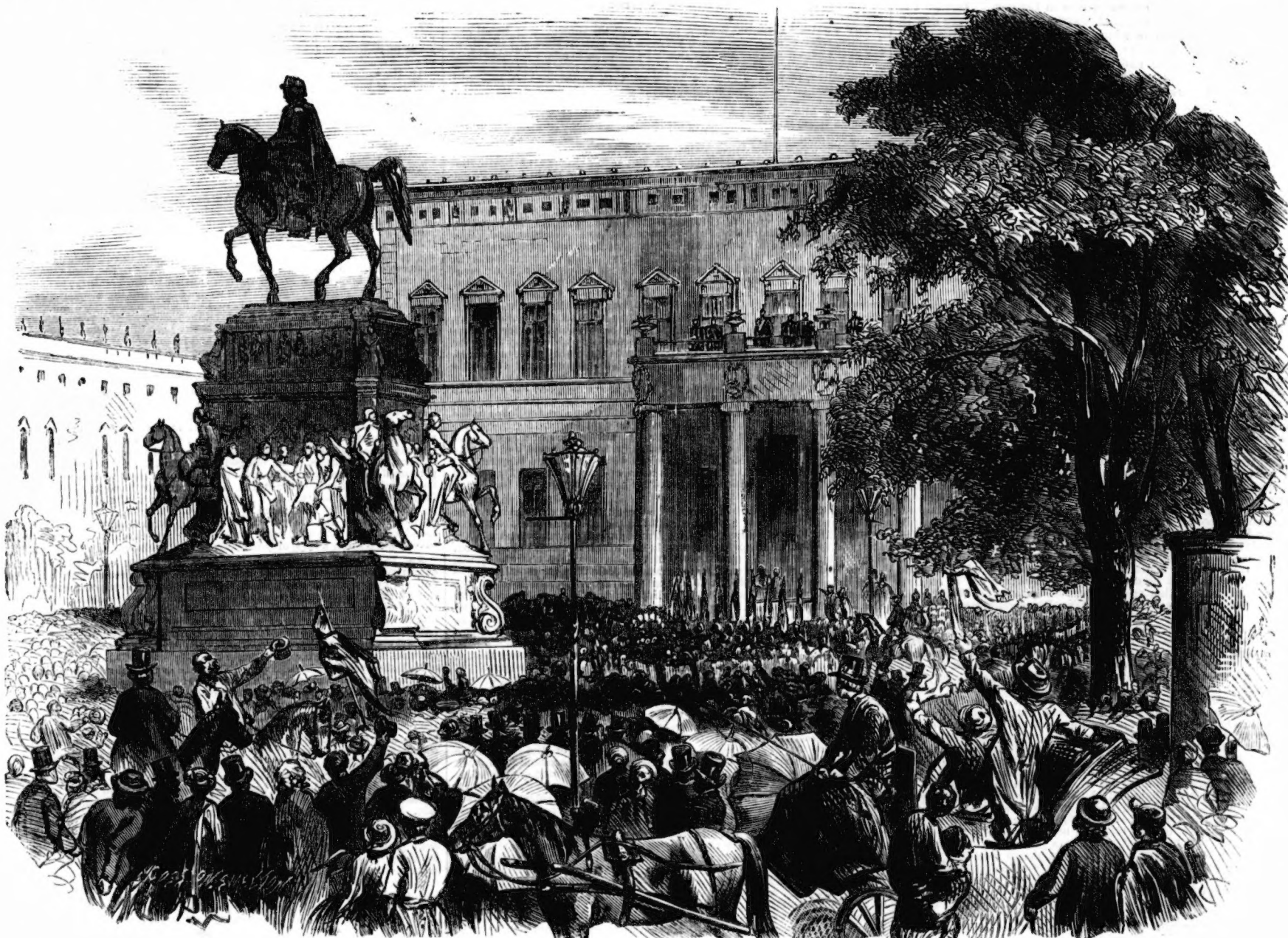
FORCED MARCH OF A BAVARIAN DETACHMENT FROM FRANKFORT.

THE HISTORY OF HYDE PARK.

NOTWITHSTANDING all claims and reclamations, it does not seem probable that the question of the property of Hyde Park will come before the courts of law. The three eminent counsel who gave an opinion favourable to the absolute rights of the Crown are still the authorities on one side, and the mob which pulled down the rails the authority on the other. *Prima facie*, nothing can be clearer than the rights of the Crown. The Acts of Parliament which ordered the sale of the Crown lands after the execution of Charles I. excepted Hyde Park from its provisions, and it became the subject of a special resolution of Dec. 1, 1652, "That Hyde Park should be sold for ready money." The park at that time contained about 621 acres, and the sale realised £17,068 2s. 8d. The purchasers of the three lots were Richard Wilson, John Lacey, and Anthony Deane; but we know of no record of the mode of resumption of the estate by the Crown after the Restoration; nor are we aware whether any portion of the "ready money" paid was recovered by the respectable merchants who made the investment. The transaction, indeed, was so entirely ignored that it was assumed that the Earl of Holland would, if he had been living, have been in full possession of his rights as Ranger, and that the reversion to the Earl of Newport, which he had obtained from Charles I., would have been valid but for a deed of surrender executed in 1660.

These claims, therefore, having expired, the King appointed his brother, the Duke of Gloucester, to the office and its emoluments. Prince Henry held it only two months, and after his death it was granted to James Hamilton, one of the Grooms of the Bedchamber, whose name survives in Hamilton-place. These and other houses about Hyde Park-corner had been erected during the Protectorate by the then proprietors, and it is uncertain what compensation or tenant-right they obtained for the outlay. At that time the park was open ground, with the exception of such fences as were put up for the purposes of pasturage; but in 1664 the Surveyor-General observes, in a report, that "the King was very earnest with him for walling Hyde Park, as well for the honour of his palace and great city as for his own disport and recreation." Ten years after a portion of it was so well fenced in as to be replenished with deer. In 1642 a large fort, with four bastions, had been erected at Hyde Park-corner; and another, to the south, called Oliver's Mount, the memory of which remains in Mount-street. This latter work was erected by popular enthusiasm, the ladies of rank not only encouraging the men, but carrying the materials with their own hands. In a note by Nash to the second canto of the second part of "Hudibras," Lady Middlesex, Lady Foster, Lady Anne Waller, and others were celebrated for their patriotic exertions as serious volunteers in this emergency. Since that period the military performances in Hyde Park have been of a

mimetic character. In "Evelyn's Diary," of the 11th of April, 1653, we read:—"I went to take the aire in Hide Park, when every coach was made to pay a shilling, and horse sixpence, by the sordid fellow who had purchased it of the State, as they were called." And in the "Character of England in a Letter to a Nobleman in France," published 1659, it is said that "the parke was used by the late King and nobility for the freshnes of air and the goodly prospect, but it is that which now (besides all other exercises) they pay for hire in England, though it be free for all the world besides; every coach and horse which enters buying his mouthful, and permission of the publican who has purchased it, for which the entrance is guarded with porters and long staves." It was, therefore, the Restoration which gave the people the free entrance to the park, but with the entire reservation of the Royal rights, as shown in several ways; not the least curious being the obligation of Mr. Hamilton, the Ranger, to deliver to the Lord Steward or to the Treasurer of the Household one half of the pippins or red-streaks, either in apples or cider, as his Majesty may prefer, the produce of the trees he is authorised to plant in fifty-five acres of the north-west corner of the park on the Uxbridge-road. The vicinity of a corner of the park to Tyburn caused it to be appropriated to military executions of an important character. In an old plan of the park, a few yards from the present Marble Arch is the place of the stone



PARADING CAPTURED AUSTRIAN BANNERS BEFORE THE KING OF PRUSSIA AT BERLIN.

against which the culprit to be shot was posted. When the level of the ground was altered some years ago this stone was embedded in the soil and disappeared. There is only one execution by hanging in the park on record, that of Sergeant Smith, in 1747, a very clever fellow, who had been a *condottiere* in several services from which he had deserted, but ended by being taken prisoner in the Pretender's army, and put to death for his fidelity to the Jacobite cause. Minor ceremonies of military justice also took place here. Among others, two poor fellows were flogged nearly to death in 1716 for wearing oak-boughs in their hats on the 29th of May, and were afterwards ignominiously drummed out of the Army. But it is to popular diversions and military spectacles that Hyde Park has mainly been devoted. The races, once common, have long been disused, and the more simple and orderly forms of recreation have contented the people. How far these are consistent with the occasional occupation of the park by large masses of men excited by political objects is a question now practically set before the community. Taken by itself, on its own merits, the subject is one deserving of all consideration. The right of Englishmen to meet peaceably even for so vague a purpose as "demonstration" is not to be gainsaid, and this right may carry with it by inference some provision for its exercise. If there is no other place fit for such concourses but Hyde Park, it may have to be given up to them. But the practice and the pretensions are novel; right and custom are against them; the public paid for admission to the park during the British Republic, and they have never entered it without certain conditions and restrictions in all periods of the monarchy.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

CONCERTS.

BUT for Mr. Alfred Mellon's concerts we should now be without any regular series of musical entertainments, which, to those who during the last six months have been regular attendants at Exeter Hall on Sacred Harmonic Society nights, at the Hanover-square Rooms on Philharmonic nights, at St. James's Hall on New Philharmonic, Musical Society of London, and Monday Popular nights, and the Royal Italian Opera and Her Majesty's Theatre, whenever anything new was to be heard at either (or at both) would be most distressing. Musical nature, however, abhors a vacuum, and the theatre in which the Royal Italian Opera is established being temporarily unoccupied, Mr. Alfred Mellon rushed, Curtius-like, into the pit and boarded it over. He then erected an orchestra capable of containing the whole of his orchestral company (unlimited), changed the grand tier from a tier of private boxes to a dress circle, and, aided by Mr. Edward Murray, issued the prospectus, to the merits of which we have already called attention. The custom of giving promenade concerts at the end of the opera season is one that has now existed a good many years, and which has been discussed, more than once, historically and philosophically, in these and other columns. It is an accepted fact that that description of musical entertainment which, until the days of Mr. Mellon, was known to the English public as the promenade concert, was invented and introduced into this country by M. Musard—not "Mozart," as the printer of an esteemed contemporary has made said esteemed contemporary state, but "Musard"—who, after composing two sets of quadrilles and giving many concerts, some of a walking, some of a dancing character, retired to lead the life of a country gentleman, became mayor of his village, and in that character distributed prizes for virtue every year to those of the young ladies in his district who seemed to deserve them. M. Julien, as everyone knows, succeeded M. Musard, and originated the custom, never since abandoned by promenade-concert givers, of devoting a portion of certain evenings to the performance of works by Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and other great masters. This custom is landably maintained by Mr. Alfred Mellon, who has already given a Mendelssohn night and a Beethoven night—to say nothing of a night on which a minor constellation, M. Gounod, was made to shine.

Mr. Alfred Mellon, who is nothing if not awake, and "Blind Tom," are now the only two concert-givers in London. But at the Crystal Palace—which has a special "attraction," for every day in the week, including one day in which no entertainment, either in the way of concerts or of fountains, or of tight-rope performances, or of any other kind is offered, and which is advertised as a day peculiarly attractive to visitors who wish to give undivided attention to the palace itself—a German Musical Festival for the benefit of sick and wounded soldiers from all parts of Germany is to be given this afternoon, and can scarcely fail to be well attended. The music performed will, we believe, be exclusively German, and several German choral societies will take part in the performance, which will be under the direction of Mr. Benedict.

A SCOTTISH VOLUNTEER HERO.—The Canadian Adjutant General O. Militia says in his report:—"It would be impossible to detail the many individual instances of devotion to Canada which have been afforded by her sons; but the behaviour of a stranger not long arrived in the country should not be left without notice. Mr. Locke, a young gentleman of the London Scottish (Lord Elcho's) regiment, who had distinguished himself at Wimbledon, came to Canada eighteen months ago. When the Fenians landed at Fort Erie he had been only a few weeks returned from England with a young bride. He immediately fell into the ranks of the Queen's Own as a private, and fought at the battle of Lime Ridge, where the grey colour of his uniform, that of the London Scottish, exposed him particularly to the fire of the enemy. His coolness and bravery were conspicuous, and during the retreat he was always seen in the rear, encouraging his comrades and leading and firing with as much deliberation as if on a field day."

FRESH MEAT FROM SOUTH AMERICA.—A few days ago Lord Stanley stated in the House of Commons that a report had been received from Buenos Ayres on the various methods used in the country there to preserve meat in an effectual manner for transportation to Europe. The report is dated June 26 of the present year, and Mr. Ford gives a full account of the native system of curing meat, then of Morgan's process for doing so by injecting a preparation through the circulatory system of the newly-killed animal, and next of Liebig's process for producing the *extractum carnis*. Finally, he gives an interesting account of an invention for transporting meat in a perfectly wholesome condition, and as fresh as when killed, of which it appears we are likely to hear more in a few days. If the system should prove as satisfactory as it is hoped, it must effect a complete revolution in our meat supplies from abroad, abolishing the necessity for importing living animals, and so diminishing the expense of transport. The following is Mr. Ford's account of the new process called "Sloper's process":—"The remaining process to be described is one of great interest, and has been lately patented by Messrs. McCall and Sloper. The patent has been conceded for the whole of South America to Messrs. E. Paris and B. S. Sloper, who are at present at Buenos Ayres, actively engaged in making experiments, when, should they prove successful, a company will be formed in England for the working of this industry. These gentlemen profess to be able to preserve meat in its fresh and raw state, which is to arrive in England or elsewhere in the exact condition as butcher's meat just killed, and be able to dispose of it at the rate of 4d. to 5d. per lb.; and that moreover, when taken out of the air-tight tins in which it is to be packed, and on being exposed in the air, it will keep twice as long as ordinary butcher's meat. The curing process is simple, and is based on the destruction of oxygen from the vessel in which the meat is packed. All bone is extracted from the meat, but the fat is left. From the tins in which it is placed the air is exhausted by means of water forced in at the bottom, which, when it reaches the top, is allowed to redescend and run off, and the vacuum thus left is filled from above by a certain gas, the composition of which is kept a profound secret. The two holes at top and bottom are carefully soldered down, and the meat is then ready for exportation. The only risk it runs is from leakage, the smallest opening in the tin case proving destructive, by allowing the gas to escape and the air to get in. Messrs. Paris and Sloper, on their arrival, in April last, at Buenos Ayres, gave an entertainment to the Vice-President of the Argentine Republic, to the members of the Government, and other gentlemen, with the view to their tasting some samples of beef they had brought out with them from England, and which they had cured six months previously. The tins, on being opened, were found to contain joints in first-rate condition, and on their being cooked no difference could be detected from freshly-killed meat. Most sanguine hopes are formed for the success of this important discovery; and it is expected that from 10,000 lb. to 12,000 lb. of beef, now ready and cured on this principle, will next month be dispatched to England to satisfy the promoters of the projected company in London that the working of the process is practicable; for, although having proved successful in England, the same experiments have been thought necessary to be tried in this country, in order to judge the result on the cattle of South America, and also the effect of the heat of the voyage and crossing the line on the samples sent. Messrs. Paris and Sloper trust, on their return to London, to be allowed to give a dinner at the Guildhall on this River Plate beef."

REPORTS ON METROPOLITAN WORKHOUSES.

THE report of Mr. Farnall, Poor-Law Board Inspector, into the complaints of Miss Beeton against the management of Rotherhithe workhouse infirmary, has just been published. Mr. Farnall considers that the evidence adduced proves, among other things, the following:—"That the master and matron did not meet Miss Beeton's complaints, nor fulfil the requirements which she made to them; that the medical officer took no steps to obtain either pauper or paid night nurses, though fully aware that there were bedridden patients in the infirmary; that neither the master nor assistant master visited the sleeping-wards of the male paupers at the times they ought to have done; that the matron did not visit the sleeping-wards of the female paupers by day and night, as she should have done; that the pauper nurses supplied to Miss Beeton were old and inexperienced, and that one of them beat and ill-used the patients; that the sick patients were sent to the infirmary in a dirty and neglected state; that the medical appliances of the infirmary were extremely defective; that the beds were very hard, and that bits of bone and flint were in some of them, and that maggots were seen on one of them; that the dietary of pauper patients was insufficient and not properly served; that one of the pauper landladies was addicted to drink, and that the nurse Britton took opium. A letter has been sent from the Poor-Law Board to Miss Beeton, saying that the guardians have inquired respecting certain charges made against her by the workhouse master, and find that they rest on mere idle gossip; that the guardians have inquired also into the matters of which Miss Beeton complained, and that they have now remedied some of them, but would have done so earlier if she had, in her capacity of nurse, made known the charges to them; that the guardians have come to the conclusion that the charges against Miss Beeton are without foundation.—Mr. Farnall's report on an inquiry held with respect to alleged mismanagement of the sick poor in Paddington workhouse is also published. The charges were made by Mrs. Bateman, a paid nurse, and were brought under the notice of the Poor-Law Board by the Earl of Carnarvon, on behalf of the Workhouse Infirmary Association. The affidavits received prove, Mr. Farnall thinks, the following facts:—"That the sick wards are contained in two distinct infirmaries called the new and the old, and not scattered all over the house; that in the old infirmary as many as three sick children, with various complaints, some of them infectious, have been put to sleep together; that the sick are not classified, but that the aged, young, infirm, chronically and acutely sick are or have been ward together in the same room, and that an aged patient of dirty habits and with vermin on her, named Stannett, was ward with sick children, and that a noisy lunatic named Luke disturbed the sick inmates of a ward by night and day for three weeks; that, in addition to giving all the medicines at the stated hours in the female sick wards, Mrs. Bateman had a certain amount of dispensing to do, together with the personal distribution of all the clean and dirty linen, both of the wards and the inmates, and the distribution of stores; that Mrs. Bateman was consequently unable to perform satisfactorily to herself the duties of nursing, and that some of the pauper nurses on whom she had to rely were incompetent, and behaved harshly and cruelly to some of the patients, and that the lady visitors occasionally gave the pauper nurses small sums of money to secure their kindness and attention to the sick; that a woman named Ward was afflicted with bed sores, but was obliged to lie on a straw mattress until Mrs. Bateman obtained an air mattress for her; and that, while Mrs. Bateman was nurse, she was not supplied with mackintosh sheets for dirty patients; and that a paralysed patient named Dunsford fell twice out of bed in one night for want of assistance, and for whom a night nurse was ordered, but not supplied. Mr. Farnall also directs the attention of the Poor-Law Board to some additional facts elicited during the inquiry. He states that there are no paid night nurses; that the friends of a sick pauper, Mary McDonald, were not permitted to see her, or detained sometimes an hour and a half before they could do so, "because neither Mr. McDonald herself nor her friends would give any account of her settlement;" that the sick patients give beer to the pauper nurses; that a pauper nurse, when called up at night, only attended to such calls as she thought proper; that the sick inmates complain to lady visitors of cruelty on the part of the pauper nurses; and that the matron does not visit the sick wards every day. Mr. Farnall advises the Board to direct the appointment of an adequate staff of nurses; that the medical officer should attend thoroughly to his own department and its requirements; and that the matron should be permitted to see that in cases of sickness or necessity inmates should be allowed to visit their friends on other than appointed visiting days. With respect to a charge of immorality against Mrs. Bateman while acting as nurse at St. Pancras workhouse, Mr. Farnall reports that the charge was groundless, and that a charge of indiscretion only could be maintained. Mr. Farnall also informs the Board that, although the guardians discharged Mrs. Bateman because she was "inefficient in midwifery," the advertisement through which she was appointed did not require such efficiency as a qualification, nor was her efficiency tested during the month she held office at the Paddington workhouse."

THE BUILDING TRADES OF MANCHESTER are threatened with a strike should the threat be fulfilled, some 18,000 persons will be thrown out of employment.

THE FUTURE LONDON WATER SUPPLY.—This subject will, in all probability, receive full consideration between the present time and the opening of the next Session of Parliament. In addition to minor schemes afloat and likely to be set afloat, two gigantic proposals are now before the public. In November, 1865, John Frederic Bateman, C.E., issued an able pamphlet (with a plan) on the subject of the supply of water to London from the sources of the River Severn. His project is a bold one—namely, to bring water from the Welsh lakes, a distance of 183 miles, at a cost of £8,600,000. Mr. Bateman states:—"No scheme, in my opinion, is worthy of attention which would bring in less than 200,000,000 gallons of water per day, at an elevation which would supply nearly the whole of the metropolitan district by gravitation without pumping." Mr. Bateman's lecture at Burlington House, which was honoured by the presence of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, will be still fresh in our readers' recollection. Another pamphlet (with plan) has just appeared on the future water supply of London, by George Willoughby Hemans, C.E., and Richard Hassard, C.E. This project is still more gigantic; it is to turn the lakes of Haweswater, Ullswater, and Thirlmere, in Cumberland and Westmorland, into great reservoirs, and to convey so vast a body of pure water to London that there would be ample left to supply certain towns in Yorkshire on the road, and the works would begin to pay from their commencement. The distance from London would be 240 miles and the cost £10,000,000. The authors of this pamphlet state:—"Although involving an apparently larger outlay, in the first instance, than Mr. Bateman's scheme will, from the absolute certainty of the rainfall, the extraordinary purity of the water, the facilities afforded by the existing lakes for the construction of immense reservoirs, and from the revenue which may fairly be expected from the sale of water in the districts traversed by the aqueduct, we found the best and cheapest which has yet been proposed, and that ultimate economy would arise from its selection." Mr. Hemans's name stands high in the engineering profession, and Mr. Hassard designed the extensive waterworks now being carried out for the city of Dublin, which will be supplied with water from the sources of the River Vartry and the lakes in the Wicklow mountains. Various projects were brought forward for the supply of Dublin with water, but so puzzled were the Corporation of that city that they wisely decided to call on Mr. Hawkshaw from England and to take his decision as umpire. Mr. Hassard's plans were selected and adopted. It is to be hoped that members of both Houses of Parliament will give full consideration to all the schemes proposed for London before any legislation is attempted.

REVOLVING IRON-CLAD FORTS.—The recent gunnery experiments upon the turret of the Royal Sovereign and the recent engagement with the Spanish iron-clad squadron at Callao have proved almost beyond a doubt that the system of revolving turrets is one which merits great attention. Such being the case, it remains yet to be determined whether the system cannot be developed on a much more extended scale than its most sanguine supporters ever expected. A plan has been recently submitted to the authorities of the Admiralty and War Department which, although bold in idea to the very extreme, commends itself for its simplicity. It is proposed by a civil engineer in Portsmouth that revolving iron-clad forts should be erected on the foundations now in course of construction on the No Man's Land shoal and the Spit and Horse sands, the forts upon which are intended to defend the roadstead known as Spithead. It is perfectly clear that, if three men can turn with ease one of the turrets of the Royal Sovereign, although weighing 130 tons, a revolving iron-clad fort could be turned with equal ease by powerful hydraulic machinery, even though weighing as much as 4000 or 5000 tons. At all events, the scheme is worthy of the consideration of the authorities, and might fairly be left to the turret committee or to the Chief Engineer at Portsmouth dockyard to report upon its practicability. It is proposed that the diameter of the top course of the present foundations, having a double curvilinear sectional form, such form being, it is believed, preferable to that of a quadrant or that of an angle of 45 deg. The forts will have two tiers of 600-pounders mounted on an upper and lower tier, each containing sixteen guns, or thirty-two in all, and will revolve on three lines of rails with conical wheels, the wheels themselves being connected in the most powerful manner with the platform above, which, in reality, will form the foundation upon which the whole of the iron-clad superstructure of the fort will rest. The guns will stand one immediately over the other upon an iron gallery, each two being separated from the others by iron divisions, to avoid the possibility of accidents. The approximate weights would be as follow:—Wrought-iron casing, 2000 tons; backing, framing, &c., 1500 tons; thirty-two 600-pounders, 1000 tons; total weight to be turned by hydraulic power, 4500 tons. Ample space will be provided within the forts for barracks, magazines, &c.; but it is intended that a staircase should be erected in the centre, with an iron-clad look-out tower forming its roof. The time for providing ourselves with old-fashioned batteries is gone by. We must now avail ourselves of iron, steel, or if there be any other harder and more durable metal known, to keep out the ponderous shot and shell which are about to come into use.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

A FAMILY ROMANCE.

AN action, "Morgan v. Nicholl," has just been tried at the Monmouth Assizes. It lasted three days. The action was one of ejectment, brought to recover possession of a large property in the parish of Mamhilad, in the county of Monmouth. The following is an outline of the case:—

The plaintiff was one Isaac Morgan, who is in humble circumstances, working as a sawyer in Clerkenwell, London. The defendant is the Rev. Ittyd Nicholl, a clergyman, and the son of a magistrate of the county. Two actions had been brought originally—the one against the present defendant, and the other against his father, but they had been consolidated. Estates to the value of between £60,000 and £70,000 depended upon the title brought in question in this action. In 1857 an action was brought by one Jacob Morgan, who was the son of the present plaintiff, to recover an estate called Pant-y-goitre, in this county, against the same parties, upon the same title, and upon that occasion he testified that his father, the present plaintiff, had died some years before. It appeared that, on Sept. 29, 1854, Miss Rachel Morgan, an old maiden lady, whose principal residence was at Pant-y-goitre, died at Clifton, without a will. She was then in possession as well of the estate at Mamhilad as of Pant-y-goitre and other property. The defendant's father had married a Miss Eleanor Bond, through whom the defendant claimed to succeed to the property upon Miss Morgan's death, and having received by telegraph immediate information of that event, he took instant steps to possess himself of her property, by taking possession of Pant-y-goitre at a late hour, and Mamhilad mansion-house on the same evening. The question in the case was one of pedigree, whether the plaintiff was entitled to the property as the descendant in the male line, through one John Morgan, from William Morgan, of Craigwith, who died in 1743, or the defendant, through the female line, from the same William Morgan. Miss Rachel Morgan had lived at Pant-y-goitre with a brother William and a sister Anne, until their deaths respectively, unmarried and intestate. They were the children of John Morgan, of Craigwith, who, with a brother William (who died a bachelor in 1829), had on his brother's death succeeded to Pant-y-goitre. He was the son of William Morgan, of Craigwith, who had married, in October, 1741, Miss Rachel Jones, one of the three coheiresses of Mr. Jones, of Pant, through whom the Mamhilad and Pant-y-goitre estates came into the family. He died in 1782. This William was the son of the common ancestor, William Morgan, of Craigwith. The plaintiff's case was that the common ancestor, William Morgan, had a son, named John, born in 1706, who had married beneath him Diana Wroth, one of a family of woodburners, who came over with Queen Anne from Denmark, and derived their surname from the red colour of their hair. John was alleged to have died in 1739, and left a son Edmund, who lived at Grosllanfran, and died in 1810, leaving a son William, who was the father of the present plaintiff. The defendant denied the existence of any such son of the common ancestor as John, and said that William was his only son, but that he had three daughters, one of whom was named Elizabeth, who married and had a daughter Eleanor, who married a Mr. Bond, whose daughter married the father of the present defendant. The father of the present plaintiff was a timber-haulier, and kept pack-horses, and farmed a small farm called Bwlch-y-Gwyt, at Bassalleg. The plaintiff's family had always been poor and lowly, and his grandfather had a small farm at Grosllanfran, in Bassalleg. The plaintiff himself is now in his sixty-sixth year, and lived, in his youth, more or less at home in Bassalleg until the year 1839, when, having become mixed up in the Chartist riots, he went away to Bristol, whence he returned and worked for a short time on the Great Western Railway, and then went to London, where he had been living ever since. For the last fourteen years he said he had lived in the same house at Clerkenwell, but he had ceased to hold all communication with his family, and he said that he first learnt that his son Jacob was making an attempt to get hold of the Pant-y-goitre estate two or three months before the trial. At the time of the trial he came down to Abergavenny, where he was met by a friend from Newport. He stayed at Abergavenny and the neighbourhood, but he did not interfere with his son's proceedings, having the intention, as he said, if his son recovered the property, to come forward and take advantage of his success, and pay him costs of the trial. He now brought the present action through the pecuniary assistance afforded him by his present employer. The evidence on the part of the plaintiff consisted of conversations related to have taken place between members of the Craigwith branch of the family with those of the plaintiff's alleged branch, in which the relationship was acknowledged, and of various acts indicating kindred. Various registers of baptisms at the churches in the parish of Trevelin, containing entries in the name of John, the son of William Morgan, and various dates between the year 1706 and 1723, were also put in, and an entry of the death of John, the son of William Morgan, in the year 1739. The defendant's evidence consisted of conversations with Miss Rachel Morgan and Mrs. Eleanor Nicholl respecting the relationship, and of the production of the original registers, and the denial thereupon that they proved the existence of the John Morgan referred to by the plaintiff; also a deed of gift made in 1741 by William, the common ancestor, to William, his son, in which the latter was described as his only son and heir, and a settlement of the same date made on the marriage of William, the son, in which he was described as son and heir of William, the common ancestor; and a will of the common ancestor, made in the same year, in which he made no mention of John or his children, though he made bequests in favour of other children.

In the course of the plaintiff's case a certified copy of an entry in the register of baptism in Llanovel parish was put in evidence. It was in the following form:—"bn, son of Will. Morgan, April 13, 1706;" and it was said that "bn" formed the final letters of the word John, the rest being illegible. The original register was produced by the defendant, and it was suggested that "bn" had been written in pencil, and that "Will" was in truth "Giles." Powerful glasses were produced, and in the result it was admitted that the disputed word was either "Giles" or "Gull."

The jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

NEW SUPERANNUATION ACT.—An Act has just been printed to amend the law relating to the granting of pensions and superannuation allowances to persons holding certain offices connected with the administration of justice in England. Besides offices in chancery, bankruptcy, and lunacy, the law is now extended to the common law courts at Westminster, and to any person to whom the Lord Chancellor has or shall have authority to order a superannuation allowance. The applications made to the Lord Chancellor for retiring allowances are to be transmitted to the Treasury, to examine and award the sums to be paid. The mode of determining a superannuation allowance is pointed out. The Lord Chancellor may declare offices to be professional, and with the consent of the Treasury may add years to services not exceeding twenty. Certain powers of the Lord Chancellor are protected, otherwise the Act is to apply to present and future officers, and to be cited as the "Superannuation Act, 1866." It came into force on the 16th ult., when it received the Royal assent.

THE FOUNDERING OF THE AFFONDATORE.—The *Italie* explains the loss of the Affondatore in the following manner:—"All the telegraphs on our Adriatic coast signalled a strong north wind and a very rough sea, followed by a tempest, which put several vessels in great peril on those shores. Some ships of the Italian squadron remained out at sea in order to have full sea room and escape the dangers of the storm; others, owing to their special character, entered the port; and some few, in the impossibility of taking either of these courses, were obliged to contend with the tempest, and experienced some damage. The steam-ram Affondatore, which, by reason of its special construction, could not when at anchor have long resisted the fury of the waves, and which was already in danger of sinking, contrived, by a bold and skilful manoeuvre of her captain, to enter the port. But just at the entrance the waves struck the ship with such violence that she foundered, but without having suffered any damage. All the crew were saved, and there is a hope of being able to float her again in a few days."

AN INVULNERABLE COAT.—We have no sooner come to know the efficiency of breech-loaders than an inventor steps in to neutralise them. The game of guns versus armour, which has been played so long on a great scale, must henceforth be transferred to the case of smaller firearms. We write thus on the authority of a report, furnished by *Le Nord*, of a remarkable test to which the invention of a light coat, impenetrable to musketry fire, has been subjected, the inventor being M. Charles Bernard, with whose invention rumour has for a few weeks been busy. According to *Le Nord*, the trial took place a few days ago at the Belgian Tir National, in presence of M. Dailly, president of the competition, and of a great number of marksmen. The experiment was made with a cavalry carbine, charged with 3½ grammes of powder and the conical ordnance ball for that arm. The carbine, after having been tested and regulated, was placed upon a stand pointed at the level of the breast. M. Bernard, placing himself at the distance of 100 metres, commenced by taking off his coat, and showed that between his breast and his capote there was absolutely nothing but his shirt and his waistcoat. He then put on his capote, which is a flowing garment falling to the ground, and covered his head with a steel casque. The shot was then fired. The public were greatly moved when they appeared to see M. Bernard stagger and fall. Happily he had only made a false step in stooping to pick up the ball, which had struck him a little above the waist and to the left side. The ball, densened against the stuff, had fallen at his foot, and he came running towards us to show it. At a short distance he threw the ball to the marksmen, crying to them not to approach. Not yet having taken out a patent, M. Bernard absolutely refused to let the garment be examined by which he obtained so marvellous a result. The ball was only slightly beaten out of shape, and bore on its point the impress of the stuff. The inventor offered to renew the experiment; but, in presence of the result obtained, those present declared a new experiment unnecessary. The coat is said to weigh very little, so that there can be no objection to it on the score of burdensomeness. Are infantry henceforth to be useless against each other unless they are armed with heavier weapons, which it will certainly be a novelty to introduce after all the desire of military men to have the lightest possible weapon? But there will be no help for it if it be possible, by increasing the weight and power of the infantry soldier's weapon, to make the necessary defensive armour, even with the advantages of the present invention, too heavy.—*Globe*.

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